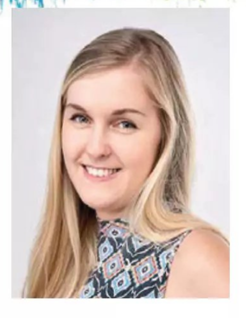

TRIPLE-TESTED IDEAS!
HELLO
you are one of a kind
THANKFUL for you
hugs
Garden
Planner
FREE!
30 DIGI STAMPS +
20 Papers
Best for Value, Inspiration & Projects
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June 2021
Over 100 New Makes Every Issue!
Sara Naumann
Stephanie Weightman
A-list Crafters!
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For You
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Hello Summer!
212 Inspiring Ideas
PLUS Stamping * Inking * Die-cutting * Stitching
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06
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Gadget Must-Haves + Dried Flower Bouquets + Huge Prizes + FREE Templates



Measure cm
Front Centre Length 37.1
Back Centre Length 41.9
Front Full Length 44.3
Back Full Length 43.8
Front Shoulder Slope 44.0
Back Shoulder Slope 43.7
Bust Level
Bust Span
Side Length 20.0
Shoulder Length 12.6
Front Access Shoul
Back Access Shou
Bust Arc
Back Arc
Front Waist Arc
Back Waist Arc
Front Dart Plac
Back Dart Plac
Front Shoulde
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Build garments from templates - or draft your own pieces
Print full size patterns using an ordinary printer
£159
Plus P&P. Technical support included.
Fittingly Sew 2
Computer aided pattern drafting
For the flexible design of well-fitting garments for every size and shape. Combines pattern drafting with digital fabric printing.
Take a graphic image
Using reflections and effects, create exciting & unique fabric patterns
Email files to a digital fabric printing service
Soft Byte LTD
Tel 01691 828556 https://softbyte.co.uk info@softbyte.co.uk



Hello there,

I need to tell you all a secret. As the Editor of a craft magazine I probably shouldn't admit this but here goes... I used to find painting scary. Yep, you read that right. I was plagued with the fear of mess. What if **I covered my craft room in a rainbow hue of acrylic splodges**, or what if my project came out all wrong? But do you know what was really wrong? Me! Once I had **the confidence to pick up a brush**, I never looked back.

This issue we're **celebrating all things paint**, because after all, it's so much fun! If you're a newbie, I'd suggest you dip your toes in with Keren Baker's stunning painted backgrounds (p36) – **they're so simple to master**, yet offer **incredible results**. If you're feeling a little more adventurous, then make sure you turn to page 56 and try your hand at paint pouring, trust me, it's **easier than it looks**.

I've really seen the beauty in **dried flower arrangements** this year which is why I'm so excited to bring you a project from botanical artist Carolyn Dunster on page 50. And talking of flowers, I've been **spending so much more time in the garden** of late, so you can only imagine my glee to share our trio of pots (p46) made by Corinne Bradd (AKA our craft extraordinaire).

For all you avid sewers, you're going to love what we've got in store. **Get set for al fresco tea parties** (p71), upcycle your homewares with a touch of **easy-to-master cross-stitch** (p76) and have a go at Amanda Walker's innovative rope bowls on page 81 – **I can't stop making them!**

Jessica

Jessica Elkin, Editor

MEET THE CB SQUAD



STEPHANIE WEIGHTMAN, TATTERED LACE

I talk you through screen printing on page 68



STUART HILLARD, CB COLUMNIST

Want to know who all of my crafty heroes are? Head to page 16 now



MELISSA HYLAND, DEPUTY EDITOR

Treat yourself with my ultimate crafty gadget guide over on page 59!



SORCHA HORNETT, CONTENT WRITER

I've been bitten by the lockdown baking bug over on page 87

Subscribe today! Head to page 30 for a special offer price

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INSIDE: JUNE 2021

Crafts beautiful





BE INSPIRED

COLOUR CREATIVE

LEARN SOMETHING NEW

GET MAKING



STITCH IT



YOUR FREEBIES

PAINTING SPECIAL


edding
Taking art easy.
Because I can.
NEW
ACRYLIC
edding.com/acrylic

PROJECT FINDER

Find every project featured in this issue a little easier with our helpful index

START CARDMAKING TONIGHT WITH YOUR

75-Piece Kit!

Always wanted to up your papercrafting game with box cards? Well look no further, your exclusive Stephanie Weightman kit includes an impressive pop-up template to help you master the art. But of course that's not all, with stunning double-sided papers, acetate, die-cuts, card blanks and more, you'll be able to create a stunning range of professional greetings in a flash. Go ahead and tear it open, we can't wait to see what you make!













"To keep the inside of the circle aperture card neat, add another circle topper or a disc of patterned paper to the acetate on the inside of the card front. This will hide any adhesive"

COLETTE SMITH, CB DESIGNER





the CRAFTS CHANNEL

ONLINE INSPIRATION
For more papercrafting projects, check out our free video tutorials at **youtube.com/TheCraftsChannel**

Inside you'll find 62 pre-cut shapes!







TURN OVER FOR EVEN MORE!



GET YOUR DISCOUNT!



Red tape or strong glue is ideal for assembling your box cards









"Use a quality sturdy cardstock to help you create these boxes. I recommend Hunkydory Crafts Essential Card Block"

KITTY DAY, CB DESIGNER









FREE PAPERS AND STAMPS!

We've got an incredible selection of 20 papers and 30 digi stamps ready for you to download at **crafts-beautiful.com**

The patterned card included in your kit could also be used to make mini gift envelopes, pouches or boxes







NEXT MONTH IN CB...

Make sure to get your hands on the incredible Rare Earth Stamp & Emboss set!

INCLUDES:

★ 27 easy-to-use pieces
★ Sweet sentiment stamps
★ A floral embossing folder

Turn to page 95 to find out more!



WORTH £19.99

FIND ALL THE INSTRUCTIONS AT **CRAFTS-BEAUTIFUL.COM**



NEW PRODUCTS FOR 2021

wowembossingpowder.co.uk

Fiesta Trio
Inspired by
Tracy Scott





Pick Me Up Trio
Inspired by
Marion Emberson





Ancient Jewels Trio
Inspired by
Raquel Burillo Perez





Inspired by... alexandraRENKE.com



10 Beautiful New Colours

wowembossingpowder.co.uk

YOUR FREE GIFT:

CRAFT-ALONG

Make use of your magazine gift and learn new skills along the way

Kitty Day has taken your Stephanie Weightman gift to a whole new level with these six stunning makes. New to embossing? Never made a shadow box? Not sure how to make shaker cards? Well, you've come to the right place. With a few extra tools you can make your kit go even further and master new skills too. Don't forget to show us how you get on over on social media!













We used... * Your Stephanie Weightman Multi Cardmaking set * Lawn Fawn Stitched Rectangle Frames dies * My Favorite Things Outside The Box Level Up and Shadow Box Die-namics dies * Frantage Embossing Powder * Coloured card: sage, lilac, white, cream * Embellishments: white Nuvo Drops, sequins, gems, pearls, ribbon, lace * Clear Gelly roll pen



"Attach your die-cuts with strong glue or foam pads to keep them secure"
KITTY DAY, CB DESIGNER

WATCH US MAKE THIS ON
facebook.com/craftsbeautiful







Create a Box Card

1 Assemble a box from cream card using the My Favorite Things Outside The Box Level Up dies. Die-cut the back panel from patterned paper and glue in place.

2 Attach patterned paper to the front panel and inside the box, along with flower die-cuts on the middle panels. Stick the die-cut sentiment onto the front of the card and a butterfly to the back.

Shaker Card

1 Layer patterned paper onto sage card, 11cm x 13.5cm, then matt onto a card base. Die-cut a stitched frame from card using the Lawn Fawn Stitched Rectangle Frames dies and attach acetate onto the back.

2 Place foam strips around the back of the frame then add a pinch of sequins onto the acetate. Attach a piece of pink card to cover the back to create the shaker panel. Stick onto the card and glue the die-cut toppers in place.

Book Altering

1 Cover the front of a notebook with patterned paper from your kit. Layer three die-cut toppers in varying sizes on the front of the notebook, overlapping slightly.

2 Type 'garden planner' onto a document on your computer and print it out. Mount the text onto a piece of white card, then peach and fix in place with foam pads. Add two die-cut butterflies using foam pads and add adhesive pearls to the bottom corner.








THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX
My Favorite Things Outside the Box Level Up Die, £37.50

LET'S STITCH IT
Lawn Fawn Small Stitched Rectangle dies, £20.50



Both available from **sevenhillscrafts.co.uk**







Embossed Bookmark

1 Trim patterned paper, 6.5cm x 15.5cm and apply Versamark ink around the corners. Sprinkle on embossing powder and set with a heat gun. Layer patterned paper onto white, then lilac card.

2 Add Nuvo Drops to the flower centres and draw highlights with a pen. Glue a flower die-cut onto the bottom left corner, attach a ribbon to the top and a pearl to the centre.

Simple Shadow Box

1 Assemble a shadow box with the My Favourite Things Shadow Box die using sage and cream coloured card. Attach a piece of patterned paper from your kit to the back panel of the card.

2 Glue the flower die-cuts to the inner box pieces and on the outside of the box. Fix a sentiment on the front frame and add adhesive pearls to finish.

Try Distressing Effects

1 Mount patterned paper, 12.5cm square, onto card then fix to a blank. Distress the edges of a 10.5cm square of patterned paper using a distress tool or scissors.

2 Glue onto card and distress the edges. Glue half a paper doily to the bottom of the card and fix lace across the top. Attach the die-cuts with foam pads and add pearls to the corners.



CRAFT DIARY

Stuart Hillard

Join The Big Rainbow Knit in June!

Stuart celebrates the crafty heroes who have helped make the world a better place

Recently I've been thinking a lot about heroes. During this past year, we've seen organisations, services and individuals rise to incredible challenges and face them head on. We've all been transformed by the last twelve months, having to find our own hero inside us in order to keep going and face our personal obstacles. My greatest hope is that the changes made for the better can continue past the clear and present dangers and we can remain a kinder, more helpful and stronger global community.

Talking of communities, I'm currently involved with a fabulous project in West Yorkshire called The Big Rainbow Knit… it's a yarn bombing and textile event that I'll be launching in Huddersfield in June, which should be a lot of fun! If you've never heard of yarn bombing before it's usually a project to decorate and enliven a plain building or area. I once spent the day in a shop window in London, knitting and helping to bring the space to life. It was great fun, attracted lots of interest and laughs and I had the best time doing it! For The Big Rainbow Knit, thousands of knitters around the world have come together to



Vote for your crafty heroes in the Best Of Craft Awards 2021 at **craftawards.com!**



This blanket features in Stuart's book, *Use Scraps, Sew Blocks, Make 100 Quilts*

> 'For me, heroism is about facing a challenge and giving it your best shot"

decorate the area and bring colour, joy and creativity to life. Awe-inspiring numbers of knitted and crocheted items have been sent in and I love to think of all these people, spread far and wide, brought together by a crafting event. Some heroes wear capes… if mine do then they are almost certainly knitted or crocheted!

My own way of coping with challenges has always been to lose myself in crafting where I can mull over and think through problems in quiet contemplation, either by myself or with others. Surrounding myself with creative souls has always inspired and driven me. I dedicated my second book, ***Use Scraps, Sew Blocks, Make 100 Quilts*** to all the people in my quilting and sewing community who make everything from quilts and home décor, to garments and high fashion. For me, heroism is about facing a challenge and giving it your best shot and there's been plenty of that in our crafting community. There have been so many crafty charity events, making

Craft shops have found inventive ways to work around lockdown restrictions

for others, supporting each other's mental health and providing practical help and support through various crafts.

Our craft retailers are heroes in my eyes too and I certainly couldn't have got through the last year without them adapting and rising to the challenges. I experienced 'virtual shopping' in every way possible, even a shop owner walking the aisles of his store with a video camera showing me fabrics so that I could see them in 'real life' and others sending swatches and photos so that I could make a better choice.

The Best of Craft Awards this year is a wonderful opportunity for you to name and vote for your crafting heroes and to celebrate the very best in our community. It's an opportunity to recognise and reward the people, the places and the products that rise to every challenge that gets thrown their way, so do make sure you vote! I'm judging some of the industry awards and for me it's about recognising excellence in products which meet our needs and solve problems. Crafting should be a fun challenge and any product I can find which makes the process easier, more successful or more exciting is a hero product in my eyes. Our industry, like the world, is always changing but for as long as there are heroes, it will thrive!

Stuart x

Die-Cut Scene Card

Look for the bear necessities in this camping-themed greeting!

Celebrate the summer (it's on its way, honest) with Sarah Jackman Read's fun holiday greeting which is based around the most British of pastimes, camping! Layer papers, die-cut toppers and sentiments to create a scene that will have you hankering for a stay in the great outdoors.

We used...

* Pebbles Sun & Fun 12" x 12" patterned papers * Pebbles Sun & Fun embellishments: Phrase Ephemera, Icon Ephemera, Accent Stickers, Puffy Dots * Stitched rectangle die * Adhesives

1 Trim white card to 15cm x 21cm, then score down from the long side at 3.5cm, 7cm, 14cm and 17.5cm. Valley fold the inner score lines and mountain fold the outer ones. Cover the central and outer panels with green paper.

2 Matt the inside side panels with striped paper and the outer panels with floral paper. Cut grass patterned paper into a 3.5cm x 14cm strip, layer pink striped paper on top, then fix towards the bottom across the two front panels.

3 Die-cut a rectangular frame from grass patterned paper. Attach flower paper behind it with foam pads. Add die-cut motifs and stickers within the frame, then adhere to the top of the greeting. Fix a butterfly border across the bottom strip, then attach a 'Happy Camper' sentiment on top with foam pads.



"Remember to test your card's 'standability' before you give it to someone – we all love an abundance of embellishments, but they can have an effect on the balance"

SARAH JACKMAN READ, CB DESIGNER

Craft Shop

BRIGHT IDEAS
The Pebbles Sun & Fun 12" x 12" paper pad is packed with colour. **americancrafts.com**

FINISHING TOUCH
Build your scene with die-cuts, stickers and puffy dots from the Pebbles Sun & Fun collection. **papermaze.co.uk**

STOP THE PRESS

Get the goss on all that's new in the crafty world

In our new-look section, you'll find all the latest must-have releases, events and other craft news that's fit to print! From zingy stationery and acrylic paint pens, to sparkling jewellery and magical kinetic greetings, there's plenty to brighten your day and give your creativity a kick start.



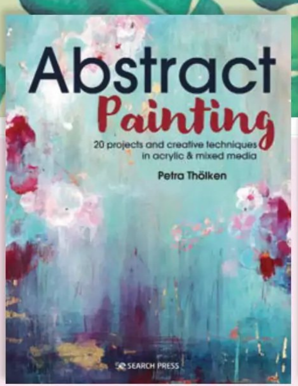
© therange.co.uk

CLUB TROPICANA

This zingy Tropical collection, created by Violet Studio in partnership with The Range, has got us in the mood for summer! There's paper packs, card blanks, toppers, stamps, dies and much more, with bright colours and tropical motifs. From £1, exclusive to **therange.co.uk**







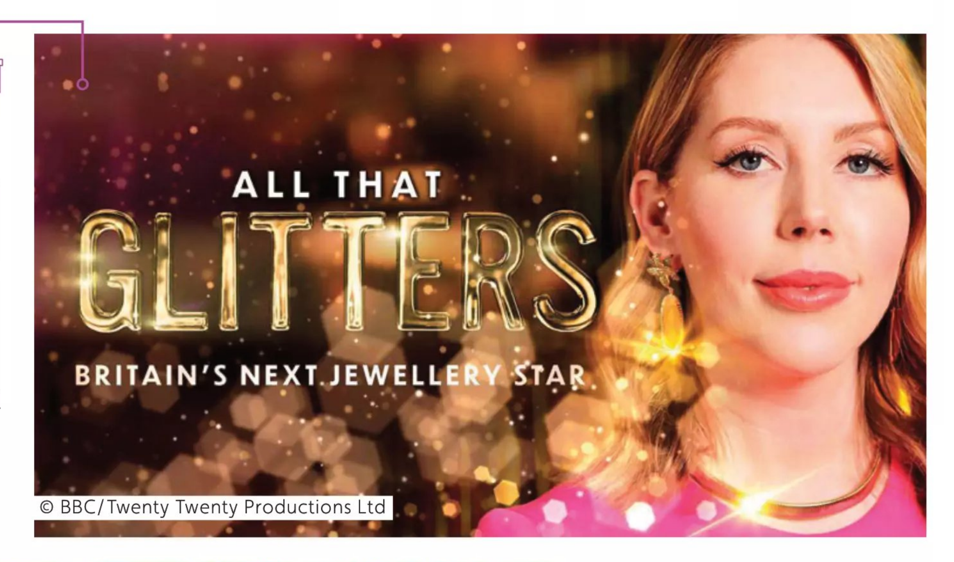


SUMMER READING

Treat yourself to one of the brand new craft books that Search Press has added to their range this summer! From sewing, embroidery and crochet, to painting, calligraphy, pottery, baking and eco crafts, there'll be something to inspire and perhaps introduce you to a fresh technique! Check out the latest releases at **searchpress.com**

PUTTING ON THE GLITZ

First it was baking, then sewing and pottery – now everyone has got the jewellery-making bug thanks to the BBC's latest talent show, All That Glitters. If you'd like to brush up your beading skills, head to **crafts-beautiful.com** where you'll find 212 free glamorous makes that presenter Katherine Ryan would definitely approve of!



© BBC/Twenty Twenty Productions Ltd



LUNCH TIME!

Mark 5th-6th June in your diaries for The Big Lunch, the UK's biggest annual get-together! The idea is to gather people to chat, swap ideas and form friendships over brunch, lunch or high tea, plus you can get crafty with a selection of project ideas to download from the website and a free Big Lunch ideas pack. **thebiglunch.com**



SPOT THE BEACH BALL

COMING THIS SUMMER!

From 16th June 2021 head over to **giftstoyou.com** to see if you can spot the beach ball. Find it and you could be in for a chance to win £££'s worth of prizes!



SPECIAL OCCASION

Got a summer wedding or party coming up? Don't miss issue 42 of Bergere de France's magazine, 'Summer Ceremonies', which has 29 beautiful knitting patterns for women and children, including pretty cardigans, jackets, tops and dresses! £7, **bergeredefrance.co.uk**





AMAZING ACRYLICS!

The new edding acrylic pen range makes painting easy and hassle-free. This compact, easy-to-use, colour-coordinated assortment provides outstanding results on various painting surfaces, including canvas, paper and wood. The four different acrylic markers feature fine, medium and broad nibs and an acrylic 3D double liner which, combined with edding permanent sprays allows for even greater creativity! **edding.com/acrylic/**



ALL CHANGE

Just like magic, one image changes into another with the amazing Gemini Reveal Window collection. This fantastical range of stamp and die sets lets you create interactive card centrepieces – simply pull the tab and watch the window slide open to show a second picture! From £6.99, **crafters companion.co.uk**



SEW CLEVER!

Clairefontaine's sewing paper is a durable and FSC® certified environmentally-friendly material, combining the qualities of a fabric with a leather appearance. Flexible and robust, it's easy to create tote bags, belts and other fashion accessories, plus it can be washed, ironed, sewn, glued, embroidered, coloured, embossed, punched, folded and braided! **clairefontaine.com/en**

3 OF THE BEST... NEEDLE FELTING KITS



Three Octopus Needle Felting Kit, £17.99, **woolcouturecompany.com**



Blue Tits Needle Felting Kit, £18.95, **hawthornhandmade.com**



Cat Beginner DIY Felting Kit, £19.82, BaarDuck at **etsy.com**



YOUR FREE DIGI STAMPS!

FIVE WAYS WITH...

Carousel Cards

Make eye catching greetings with all the fun of the fair!

Summer's here and we're off to the fairground with this set of American Crafts digi stamps designed by the marvellous Maggie Holmes. Think ice creams, ferris wheels, traditional carousel horses and other motifs that convey pure joy! Crafts Beautiful designer Kitty Day has used these to create five cards to get you started, utilising stencilling, die-cutting and layering to really show them off. Let's get started…

Download your bonus printables at **papercraftermagazine.co.uk**

TURN OVER FOR EVEN MORE!

We used... ✳ Digi stamps and sentiments from **papercraftermagazine.co.uk** ✳ My Favorite Things Die-namics Lucky Stars and Wonky Stitched Rectangles dies ✳ Distress Oxide inks: Wilted Violet, Picked Raspberry, Spiced Marmalade, Mustard Seed, Twisted Citron, Mowed Lawn, Mermaid Lagoon ✳ Dandelion Yellow Nuvo Drops ✳ Coloured and glitter card ✳ Patterned papers ✳ Alcohol markers ✳ Adhesive gems ✳ Bubble and dots embellishments ✳ Adhesives





Stamp and Die-Cut

1 Attach patterned paper onto a blank. Layer a different print onto orange card and glue in place. Die-cut white card using a rectangle die and mount onto orange.

2 Print out two hot air balloons and colour in. Cut out and fix in place with foam pads. Layer the sentiment onto orange and attach at the bottom. Complete with clear bubble embellishments.

Craft smart

Heat set your images before colouring with alcohol markers to prevent the ink bleeding



Layered Elements

1 Cover the front of a card blank with patterned paper. Mount mint card onto kraft and fix on the card with foam pads.

2 Print out the ice cream, ferris wheel and carousel horse stamps. Colour the images, cut out and attach onto the panel with foam pads. Add a gem to each corner to finish.



DOWNLOAD AND PRINT YOUR STAMPS

■ **1** On your desktop computer, visit **papercraftermagazine.co.uk** and search 'American Crafts Carousel digi stamps' ■ **2** Press 'Click here to download now' then log in – or register if you don't currently have an account, don't worry it's free! ■ **3** Click 'Download now' and you'll see the download processing at the bottom of your screen ■ **4** Open the folder, then right-click on the file and select 'Print'





Stamp Multiple Images

1 Print out several of the ice cream digi stamps. Colour in each one and cut out. Arrange them onto a white card blank and glue in place.

2 Cut off any excess from the edges. Layer the border and sentiment onto card and attach onto the middle of the greeting.

KITTY DAY



Stencilled Backgrounds

1 Apply blue ink through a cloud stencil onto white card. Blend green ink onto white card and die-cut using a stitched hill border. Glue onto the blue inked piece then onto a blank.

2 Print out the ferris wheel image. Colour with pens, cut out and fix in place with foam pads. Attach the sentiment with foam pads. Add yellow Nuvo Drops and allow to dry.

"In regular stamping, there's often the fear of leaving ink smudges, or not being happy with the arrangement but with digi stamps it's much simpler!"

CB DESIGNER



Take It Further...

- One of the best ways to use digi stamps is to create repeat backgrounds. Print off your chosen motif multiple times, colour them in, then cut them out. From there you can decipher your layout and glue them in place one at a time.
- Using digi stamps can be as easy or advanced as you like. If you're not completely comfortable with tech, the best way to level up is to practise resizing. Start a new Word document, insert the digi stamps, then drag the corners to adjust the size. If you only want one digi stamp, use the 'Crop' function.
- This digi stamp collection is concise, featuring five motifs, two sentiments and one border, but that doesn't mean you're limited! Use a motif as the focal along with patterned papers, add a stencilled or ink blended background, or use more than one for top-notch layering.

Create Patterned Panels

1 Mount patterned papers onto coloured card and glue onto a blank. Attach the patterned paper across the panel and add a mounted sentiment over the top.

2 Colour and cut out the hot air balloon image. Fix onto the card with foam pads. Add adhesive gems to the corner of the middle panel to finish.

ADVERTORIAL

Stamp a Hummingbird Card

Make an exotic greeting using Craft Buddy's® Gem It stamps!

Summer birthdays are the perfect excuse to go all out in your cardmaking – think tropical motifs and vibrant, jewel-like colours. Both of these themes are combined in this gorgeous hummingbird greeting, which features a layered stencilled background, ink spritzing and stamping for a striking effect.



We used...

* Craft Buddy Gem-It Heavenly Hummingbird A5 Clear Stamp Set * Craft Buddy Gem-It Heavenly Hummingbird A5 Die Set (optional) * Craft Buddy Mixed Media Layered Leaves and Eastern Influence stencils * Craft Buddy Gem Pens * Craft Buddy 8x8 card blank * Craft Buddy stamping card * Craft Buddy 325 self-adhesive gem packs: purple, green, yellow, red, mermaid, teal, orange, black * Craft Buddy Premium Glue * Memento Tuxedo Black ink-pad * Tim Holtz Distress Oxide ink-pad: Mowed Lawn, Pine Needles, Aged Mahogany * White Posca paint pen * Blue card * Water spray

1 Using a blending tool, lightly cover stamping card, 19cm square, in Mowed Lawn ink. Add layered detail with the two stencils and remaining ink colours. Mist over the inked card with a water spray to lift off some of the ink. You can dab with kitchen towel to leave a subtle background.

2 Print the hummingbird, flowers and leaves onto stamping card with black ink. Colour the images with pens then cut out, either with scissors or the coordinating die set. Add coloured gems to the circle detail on your stamped images to highlight them, matching the colours you have used as a guide.

3 Matt and layer the stamped panel on blue card and glue to a blank. Arrange the hummingbird and flowers then stick in place. Add a border around the edge of your background with a white paint pen. Stamp a sentiment onto white card, layer onto blue and glue in place.

Craft smart

When colouring stamped images, go over the edge of the image to provide a bleed line which will make fussy cutting easier

Craft Shop



ALL YOU NEED

Stock up on Gem-It stamps and dies, stencils, pens, card, gems and much more at Craft Buddy, your one-stop shop! **craftbuddyshop.com**



Colour Splash

Brush up on your skills and let us help you to become a master artist!

PAINTING SPECIAL

Painting can seem quite daunting when you're first starting out, whether you're trying to wrap your head around all the different types of medium or deciding if you really need a sketchbook – we're here to lend a helping hand, with top products to add to your stash, a mini project to try and handy tips every artist needs to know. So, grab your brushes (and a cuppa, of course) and let's get those creative juices flowing!

TURN OVER FOR EVEN MORE!

CHOOSE YOUR MEDIUM



Acrylic

Known for being easy to mix and fast drying, acrylic paint is perfect for beginners as it can also be used on many different surfaces. This set by Daler Rowney offers 10 versatile shades and will let you easily dip your toes into the acrylic world. £12.95, **cassart.co.uk**



Oils

Valued for its viscosity, glossy finish, and slow-drying times, oil paint is a firm fan favourite. With a beginner set, like this one from ARTDiscount, you can mix the white with the 11 other colours to create a wide range of pigmented shades. £22.45, **artdiscount.co.uk**

Gouache

A water-based medium, gouache is similar to watercolour but packs a pigmented punch and provides more texture when painting. Not only that but it can also be thinned with water and dries matt within minutes. With 24 colours, this set is great for any artist. £14, **jacksonart.co.uk**



Watercolour

From the intensity and simplicity of colour, to the spontaneity of the results, watercolours are renowned for their versatility and charm. This practical Van Gogh pocket watercolour box from Royal Talens contains 15 shades and a little brush so you can get painting straight away. £23.39, **royaltalens.com**



Paint Pens

Integrating the control of a pen with the bonus of using paint to add texture and a splash of colour, paint pens are one of the most handy tools a beginner artist can have! This starter set from Posca offers eight shades and uses water-based pigment ink to produce a poster-paint effect. £22.95, **posca.com**



Drawing Inks

With bright pigments and intensity, drawing inks are ideal for most painting techniques, from brush lettering to stamping – they can even be added to paint to create wonderful effects! Pebeo offers a set with five core colours that provide a matte finish that's velvet to the touch. £19.50, **hobbycraft.co.uk**

ARTSY ADDITIONS



Perfect Base

If you're looking to try acrylic or oil paint, then canvas is a wonderful surface to paint on. This pack of three primed canvases is great for beginners as they're inexpensive and small. £5.99, **therange.co.uk**



New Shades

Mixing thicker paints, like acrylics and oils, is easier with a smooth flat surface. This palette is fairly large and comes in white for easy colour identification so you can mix shades to your heart's content! £6.95, **artdiscount.co.uk**



Bright Ideas

A sketchbook is an essential to flesh out ideas and play with new concepts. A durable one with thick pages is key if you're looking to experiment, which is why this sketchbook from The Pink Pig is ideal. £8.52, **the-pink-pig.co.uk**

STEP-BY-STEP: PAINT DRAGGING

CREATE GORGEOUS UNIQUE BACKGROUNDS FOR YOUR GREETINGS WITH THIS EASY TECHNIQUE



1 Mix acrylic paint and water in a cup. Fill with pouring medium and two drops of silicone oil. Drip the paint onto white card



2 Repeat with a few more colours of your choice and add a strip of white mixed paint along the top edge



3 Take a spare piece of card to drag the white paint across the panel to create a swiped effect



4 Sprinkle gold glitter and star sequins onto the wet paint and leave to dry naturally

CB'S TOP PAINTING TIPS

When you're first starting out, make sure to start small. It can be overwhelming, so don't feel you need to get every paint and tool – just buying a sketchbook and experimenting can be a great way to build your confidence.

If you are building up layers of texture or colour, always allow each layer to dry thoroughly before starting on the next.

Buy basic colours to start with and learn how to mix them. Keep a colour wheel handy to remember what paints mix to make other shades. This will help to save you money whilst also expanding your palette.

Clean your brushes with a bit of mild soap and water after each painting session to give them a refresh.

And finally, remember to be patient with yourself while learning a new skill, it's all about having fun and if you find yourself not enjoying it or comparing your work to others, it's time to take a step back!

CHOOSE YOUR TOOL

MAKE SURE IT'S LOVE AT FIRST STROKE WITH OUR HANDY GUIDE!

Flat
Use for: Thick and bold strokes



Round
Use for: Fine to medium strokes



Fan
Use for: Blending colours or stippling

Liner
Use for: Extra fine strokes and sharp details

Painting knife
Use for: Mixing paints or pastes

Brayer
Use for: Backgrounds and texture

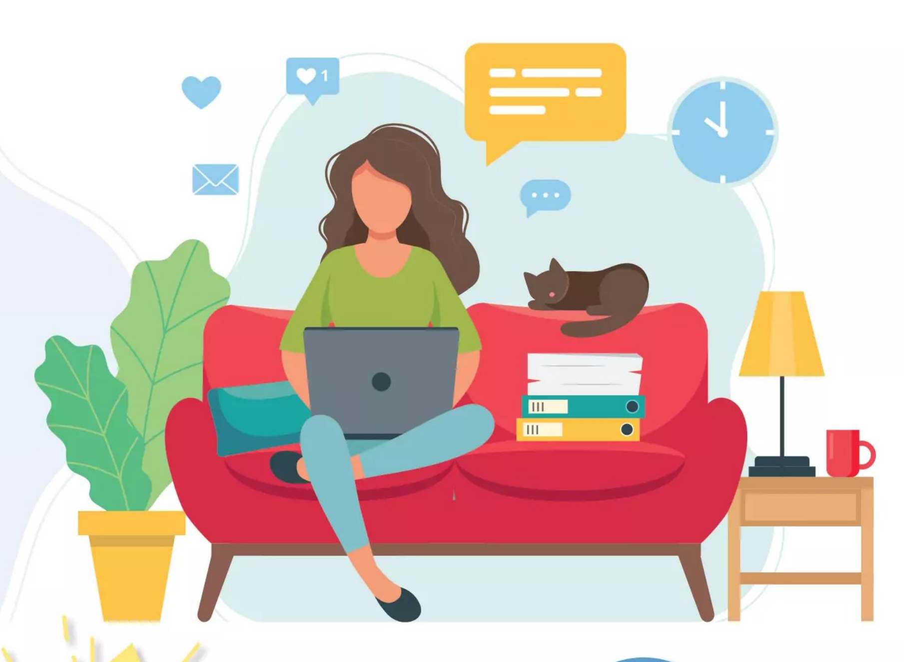
Foam sponge
Use for: Smooth, thin layers of paint



YOUR

CRAFT CHAT

We love hearing from you – check out the latest makes from the CB community



STAR LETTER PRIZE!



Get the party started with this Make a Wish! bundle courtesy of Dovecraft. Featuring fun party-themed illustrations and pretty pastel colours, you'll be able to add a contemporary touch to your papercrafts as well as thoughtful sentiments. Your bundle includes 119 stickers, 20 mini envelopes and 60 plastic buttons that will jazz up any project! **trimcraftdirect.com**



JUNE'S WINNER

PIECE OF CAKE

"It was my friend's birthday recently so I decided to make them a colourful knitted layer cake in a handmade box!"

Diane Williams, via Facebook



BUTTERFLY EFFECT

"I designed and made this butterfly exploding box on my digital die-cutting machine!"

Amy Dodd, via Facebook



BIRTHDAY SURPRISE

"I made this shaker birthday card for my brother who recently turned the big 4-0!"

Sarah Walters, via Facebook



FLORAL FANCY

"I've been making lots of floral projects, including wall plaques, door wreaths, cards and decorations."

Claire Watson, via Facebook



SUNNY SHADES

"I made this sunflower hat to wear on hot summer days!"

Naomi Hanlon, via Facebook



SAIL AWAY

"Here's a nautical themed shadow box birthday card I made."

Dawn Barwick, via Facebook

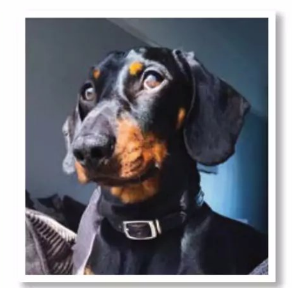
PAWESOME PETS

We catch up with CB readers and their fluffy friends



"This is Rocky, my chihuahua, he likes to sit on my lap or the craft table."

@lilcoitycrafts, via Twitter



"This is my son's dog who is my little companion that I look after whenever his owners are away."

Lynne Callister, via Facebook



"Roxie is always hard at work helping me pull together the next issue of Crafts Beautiful!"

Jessica Elkin, Crafts Beautiful Editor

We asked...

What do you prefer working with, watercolour or acrylic paint?

62% 62% SAID WATERCOLOUR

38% 38% SAID ACRYLIC

FIND A CRAFTY FRIEND

Julia Dickinson, 56

I love cardmaking, papercrafts, knitting, cross-stitch, jewellery making, cooking and reading. I'd like to hear from other crafters.

30 Upper St, Michaels Road, Aldershot, GU11 3HA

Val Belanger, 52

My favourite hobbies are cardmaking and scrapbooking. I'd love to hear from anyone and everyone as I'd love to make new friends!

54202 Range Rd 263, Sturgeon County, AB T8T 1B1, Canada

Susan Naylor, 64

Hand embroidery, patchwork, knitting and scrapbooking are my favourite crafts. I'd like to hear from anyone who enjoys a chat.

119 Abbey Grove, Abbey Wood, London SE2 9EW

YOUR ISSUE MAKES!

We love seeing how Crafts Beautiful has inspired you!



"I made my own version of Winnie the rabbit from the April issue!"

Sandra Pattenden, via Facebook



"I made this card using the April issue kit, it's slightly wonky but you can tell it came from the heart!"

@ajscreativecafe, via Instagram



"I made some cards with the March issue stamps, coloured with distress inks."

Karen Price, via Facebook



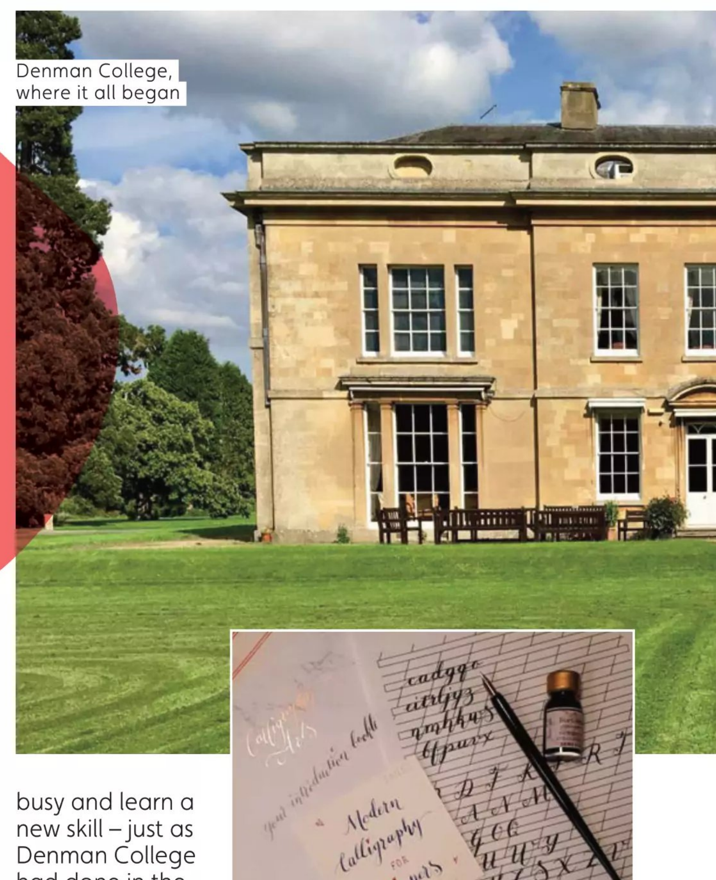
"I'm always in need of cards to write notes to friends and I made these using the May cardmaking kit."

@heatherm morgensterngale, via Instagram

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

SKILL UP!

Discover how Denman went from live to digital, providing lessons in crafts and much more



Denman College, where it all began

Brush up your calligraphy skills with Jane Lappage

The past year has presented great challenges to many people, businesses and organisations as the entire world went into lockdown, but these were overcome with creative solutions. One of those success stories is Denman, which has continued the WI's remit to offer courses and workshops teaching a huge variety of skills, and reaching an even wider audience!

At the end of the Second World War, there was a newfound appetite for education in the UK and many adult colleges were established around the country to meet this demand. Sir Richard Livingstone, President of Corpus Christi College at the University of Oxford, argued that the WI should establish its own college and in 1945 Lady Elizabeth Brunner proposed a resolution on behalf of the Oxford Federation at the AGM to bring the WI College into being. After this was passed, the search began for a suitable location and in 1947 Marcham Park was bought, with every WI in the country providing contributions. The following year, Sir Richard Livingstone opened Denman College on 24th September, named after Lady Denman, the first Chairman of the NFWI.

DENMAN AT HOME

In May 2020, the Denman team launched 'Denman at Home', an offering of online lifestyle courses while the college could not operate in person. At first, the courses were offered free of charge to garner their popularity and within the first month had attracted around 2,000 attendees. These trials gave the team the opportunity to fine tune the tools and resources, but also support tutors and students with the new digital uptake. On 8th June 2020, Denman at Home offered its first paid course with 128 people in attendance. By the end of the week Denman at Home had reached out to over 1,000 people with one course that week having 400 attendees alone.

Since it started one year ago, Denman at Home has broadened its range of courses to include anything from bake-alongs, talks on astronomy and Shakespeare, to specialised craft tutorials such as felting, quilting or embroidery. Students who regularly take Denman at Home courses have praised the accessibility of the courses but also the entertainment and escapism they have provided during lockdown, helping people to keep busy and learn a new skill – just as Denman College had done in the beginning after the Second World War.

All of the courses are hosted on Zoom and most provide participants with an interactive experience, where they can ask the tutors questions at the end of the session. The craft courses are designed as either demonstrations, where students can pick up tips and craft in their own time after the course has finished, or as live 'make-alongs' where students craft in real time alongside the tutor. Everyone's welcome to join a Denman at Home course, including members and non-members and most cost just £5 per session – the perfect incentive to try something new!

CRAFT COURSES

The lessons on offer range from beginner skill sessions to more advanced courses. Previous classes have included freehand machine embroidery for beginners, to a patchwork block series and several decoupage courses. Claire Salmon, a regular Denman at Home tutor, teaches sewing classes to students, including sessions on getting the best out of your sewing machine. Some of her most popular projects include 'Make your own WI dollies' and fun stitched art designs!

"Teaching on 'Denman At Home' is great, and it's been wonderful to see people from across the UK, and even from overseas, joining the classes," Claire tells CB. "Participants really welcome the opportunity to try new crafts or refresh forgotten skills, from the comfort of their own home. Although we're not in the same room, it's still a really friendly experience. I love seeing pictures of what everyone has made after the class. It's definitely the best part of the job!"



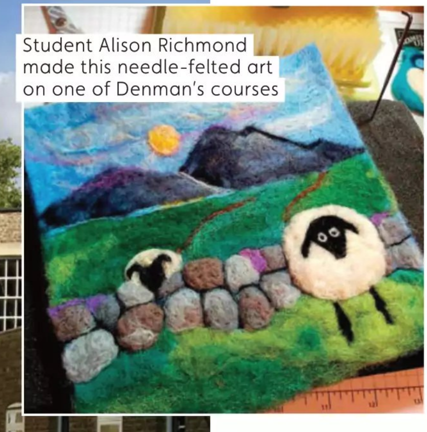
LEARN FROM HOME

FEELING INSPIRED? HERE'S SOME OF THE LATEST DENMAN AT HOME COURSES TO LOOK FORWARD TO IN JUNE

2ND JUNE
Needle Felt-Along with Sue
Sue Pearl takes you through the creative process of needle-felting in this two hour course to make a mouse, with optional attire! You can either sit back, watch the demonstration and take notes or felt-along. **£5**

10TH JUNE
Pat's Strip Patchwork Quilt
See Pat Lumsdale demonstrate one of her popular quilts that she taught at Denman. This beginners technique is a great introduction to the simplest form of Quilt As You Go, a method of piecing and quilting at the same time. **£5**

12TH JUNE
Eco Dyeing with Sue
Join Sue Pearl in her kitchen with an assortment of different leaves and flowers to make some beautiful prints on fabrics. This is the perfect time of year to explore the magical world of eco print dyeing. **£5**


Student Alison Richmond made this needle-felted art on one of Denman's courses


Try freehand machine embroidery with Stacey Chapman


Claire Salmon teaches stitched art techniques


Pat Lumsdale teaches patchwork block classes for beginners

FACEBOOK REVIEWS

HERE'S WHAT PREVIOUS DENMAN AT HOME STUDENTS HAD TO SAY ABOUT THEIR COURSES...

"Love the online courses – great variety of things to try and excellent tutors"

"Great bite-sized courses, easy to take in and helpful tutors. Managed to do lots of courses of subjects I've always wanted to learn about"

"Denman is my best discovery during Covid and has brought some joy back into my life"

"Taster courses led by experts. Easy to access and good information is given beforehand for any materials you'll need. I did a machine embroidery course, a skill I hadn't used in a while, but it would have been useful to everyone, from beginners to an experienced machinist who needed some revision"


Learn the art of Chinese brush painting with Jean Turton



Denman at Home online courses start from £5. For listings and to book, visit denman.org.uk/whats-on

PAINTING

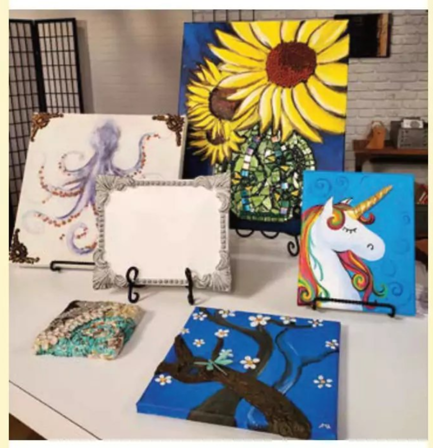
Whether you're a beginner or an experienced artist, these arty products are bound to get you inspired to pick up your paintbrush!



IndigoBlu Mixed Media Paint

Indigo Blu's brand new paint works on all surfaces including fabric. This paint offers an extremely high pigment, no fillers and is available in Matte, Translucent and Metallic. Use this product straight from the pot! Colours can be blended together to create your own bespoke colour. This paint comes in 20ml bottles at a fantastic price.

indigoblu.com



3D Canvas Enhancements With Apoxie Sculpt!

Love painting canvases? Wish there was something more you could do with them? As seen on *Make It Artsy*, Erin Gerlach shows you how to achieve 3D effects, add embellishments, and create frames to enhance canvases! It's SO FUN to do, and will make some great art for your wall! Check out Aves Apoxie Sculpt for your next canvas.

avesclay.com



Amazing Acrylics!

The new edding acrylic pen range makes painting easy and hassle-free. This compact, easy-to-use, colour-coordinated assortment provides outstanding results on various painting surfaces, including canvas, paper and wood. The four different acrylic markers feature fine, medium and broad nibs and an acrylic 3D double liner which, combined with edding permanent sprays allows for even greater creativity!

edding.com/acrylic



Under The Rowan Trees

Have you ever wanted to try your hand at acrylic painting? There's no better time to start than today with our new beginner acrylic painting set! This kit will teach you all the basics and help you to become a confident painter, with insider top tips to creating beautiful and vibrant acrylic designs Bring out your inner creativity and learn a new skill!

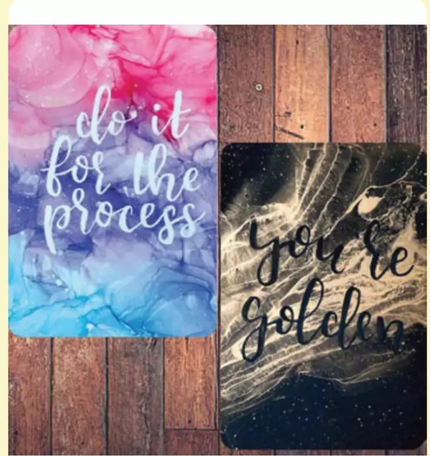
undertherowantrees.co.uk/shop/beginner-acrylic-painting-set



Clairefontaine Paint'ON pads

The best-selling Clairefontaine Paint'ON pads range feature a comprehensive selection of different multi-technique papers. Available in a variety of sizes, these mixed media pads offer the perfect solution for working with both wet and dry techniques. The 250gsm paper weight makes them perfect for both aspiring and more experienced artists alike. The paper is acid free, pH neutral and PEFC™ certified.

facebook.com/ClairefontaineUK



Grafix Art Products

Learn how to create unique lettering and design with an alcohol ink background using Grafi x Opaque Craft Plastic Film in white or black along with Grafix Incredible White Liquid Masking Fluid. Follow this helpful guide created by alcohol ink artist Anne Roos Smink (@Brushcali) to make custom designs.

grafixarts.com/projects/lettering-on-alcohol-ink-background/

Four Crafty You Crafty Me kit bundles, worth £182

Perfect for beginner or intermediate crafters, Crafty You Crafty Me kits come complete with all the materials you need and step-by-step instructions. Four lucky winners will get their hands on a bundle complete with three amazing kits: Bunny Felting, a Bee Garland and Mosaic Coasters. They'll seriously ignite your creativity while also creating pieces that brighten up your home.

craftyyoucraftyme.com

TICK **CRAFT KITS**

GET 15% OFF KITS AT **CRAFTYYOU CRAFTYME.COM** USING CODE **CBPC15**

Offer ends 8th July 2021

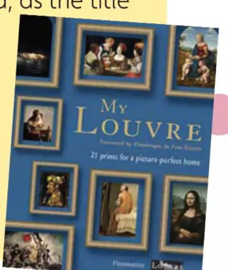


Five Copies of My Louvre: Frameables, worth £84.75

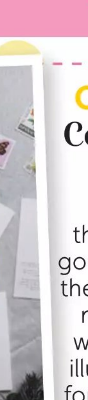
Packed with 21 high-quality reproductions of masterpieces by Da Vinci, Vermeer, Caravaggio and more, My Louvre: Frameables is the optimum way to display premium art without breaking the bank. Each print is removable and, as the title suggests, lends itself perfectly to being framed and hung – giving your craft room an arty feel to aid your creative adventures.

readmedia.co.uk

TICK **LOUVRE PRINTS**







One Pen Heaven Pretty Pastel Stationery set, worth £100

Pastels are a crafters' go-to, and for good reason – they're just so versatile. So it's no surprise that Pen Heaven's latest 'Pretty Pastel' stationery range piqued our interest, and meant we simply had to try and snag some for one lucky reader. By entering, you'll be in with a chance of bagging a stunning mix of pens and notebooks; a bundle definitely worth writing home about.

penheaven.co.uk

TICK **STATIONERY SET**

£866+ WORTH OF GOODIES TO BE WON

ENTER NOW TO BAG YOURSELF SOME INCREDIBLE PRIZES!

One Wildflower Illustration Co. Luxury Papers collection, worth £50

Wildflower Illustration Co. produces the most gorgeous range of stationery goodies, and the best part about it is that they're all sustainably sourced. One lucky reader could be in with the chance of winning a bundle containing stunningly illustrated cards and writing paper. One for the papercrafters out there, this one's a doozy – what are you waiting for?

wildflowerillustrationco.com

TICK **LUXURY PAPERS**

One Crafter's Companion Gemini Pro die-cutting machine, worth £449.99



The latest addition to the Gemini family has us seriously excited. With its mammoth 12" cutting platform, the Gemini Pro gives passionate crafters the ability to supersize their die-cutting and embossing potential. Arguably the crown jewel of Crafter's Companion's illustrious die-cutting machine line, the crafty possibilities genuinely are endless – and we're ecstatic to have one machine ready to go to a loving home.

crafterscompanion.co.uk

TICK **GEMINI PRO**

Turn to page 96 to enter, or head to **crafts-beautiful.com** where you can find more giveaways to win! Make sure you're following us on Instagram **@craftsbeautiful** for exclusive prizes!

Painted Backgrounds

Vibrant brush strokes and die-cut elements complete this artistic set

Release your inner artist with this gorgeous project by Keren Baker, and let your creativity know no bounds. Diluting acrylic paints with water creates stunning watercolour effects and is an easy way to level up your papercrafts! We show you how with two greetings and a tag that will brighten up anyone's day.

We used...

* Altenew Craft-A-Flower Antique Rose and Bold Alpha dies * Altenew Fairytale Rose and Incredible stamps * Sugar Pea Designs You're My Type stamp and die set * WOW! Clear Embossing Ink * WOW! Opaque Bright White Embossing Powder * Hero Arts Hero Hues India Ink black ink-pad * Fresco Finish Chalk Acrylic Paint: Haystack, Captain Peacock, Sargasso, Bubble Gum, Coral * Cardstock: white, pink, coral, yellow, green, light and dark teal * Pink and white twine * Vellum * White gel pen * Adhesives: glue, foam pads



Typewriter Birthday Card

1 Take a 12cm x 18cm coral blank and trim out a smaller piece of white cardstock. Die-cut six typewriter elements and adhere them together.

2 Using small sponges, dip one in each paint colour and drag down the cardstock in a straight line. Do this quickly and don't try to make the lines too even. Die-cut four typewriter elements from coloured card, then take the central part of each and fix to the white typewriters.

3 Stick the painted cardstock onto the card base. Cut one typewriter in half, then arrange the typewriters in formation and adhere to the card. Stamp the sentiment onto two panels of white cardstock and add to the base using foam pads to complete.

Hello Tag

1 Take a green rectangle of cardstock measuring 15cm x 8cm and trim a smaller white panel. Using the sponges, drag each paint colour down the white tag. Release the pressure slightly at the ends to create a texture effect.

2 Die-cut a 'Hello' sentiment from white cardstock, then adhere the painted panel to the green cardstock panel. Fix the cardstock letters to the base, matching up each letter to a coloured stripe using foam pads.

3 Stamp a sentiment in black onto a strip of cardstock and adhere onto the letters. Punch a hole in one end of the tag and thread twine through it. Add small white card hearts to finish.



Try a Tentfold Greeting

1 Take a pink tentfold card blank, measuring 15.5cm x 12.5cm, then trim a smaller white panel. Add water to your acrylic paints to create a watercolour consistency.

2 Using a scribble effect, paint different colours in separate areas on the white panel. Die-cut a rose and leaves from white cardstock and vellum. Adhere together using glue and foam pads.

3 Insert a small piece of coral card into the centre gap of the rose and arrange the leaves and flowers on the base, adding the vellum leaves at different angles.

4 Stamp the sentiment onto green cardstock using embossing ink, add white embossing powder then set with a heat tool. Adhere the sentiment to the base using foam pads, and fix three white card hearts to the card. Use a white gel pen to add dots to the centre of the rose.



PAINTING KNOW-HOW

CRAFTS BEAUTIFUL DESIGNER KEREN BAKER IS ON HAND TO HELP

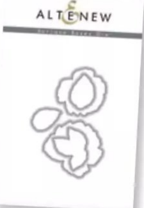
* Don't worry about the paint strips being even, unequal strips actually have a better artistic appearance.
* Diluting acrylic paints with water gives them a watercolour effect – two types of paint for the price of one!
* Use foam pads to add dimension to your white die-cut pieces.



Craft Shop

JUST OUR TYPE
This nostalgic typewriter themed stamp set is an essential addition to your crafty collection. £10.50
sevenhillcrafts.co.uk

VINTAGE FLORALS
Create blooming gorgeous papercrafts every single time with this Antique Rose die. £9.95,
sevenhillcrafts.co.uk



Be a queen for the day with Clairefontaine's Wreath of Flowers Crepe Paper Kit (£13.20), including a step-by-step guide, wires, ribbon, floral tape, stencils, stamens and florist crepe paper





Boasting soft-hued blooms in peach, hot pink, blush pink and white, build a bouquet guaranteed to last a lifetime with the Bunch of Flowers Crepe Paper Kit (£12.40)

Holy crepe

Craft the paper flower trend with our picks from Clairefontaine – shop the range at **amazon.co.uk**

Crepe paper in every colour? Yes, please. Opt for rainbow hues with Clairefontaine's Passionate Crepe Paper Assorted Rolls Pack (£14.60) or choose the Romance colourway for softer pastel tones







Clairefontaine's Macramé Decoration Crepe Paper Kit (£15.20) allows you to dip into the world of soft crafts by pairing two skills together. Make an impressive wall display and learn a new technique along the way

WANT MORE?

Origami papers? Tick! Patterned papers? Tick! Clairefontaine has it all...



Kiribati Origami Paper Pad, £7.10



Safari Paper Pad, £8



Sloth Origami Paper Pad, £7.10

SUPERCRAFTS AT HOME WITH Julie Peasgood

This month we meet TV's top carpenter and take a closer look at Leeds…

Wayne Perrey and I met on the set of *Casualty* in 2016. Our first scene together was in a swimming pool; it's not easy to act whilst treading water but I remember Wayne being very considerate and chivalrous as we shivered in our bathrobes after filming, and we got on immediately. A year or so later I asked him to become a regular contributor to the TV series *Crafty Beggars* which I co-produced, and we have been friends ever since. He made my daughter Kate a lovely giant ruler when her first daughter was born, and both Saha and now her little sister Anjelica are measured against it regularly – a present that really hit the mark!



Lights, camera, action! Wayne with Alan Titchmarsh

Wayne Perrey prepares to drill down…

Floral architecture



Saha measuring up…

Meet Supercrafter Wayne Perrey

With his innovative approach to teaching, Wayne Perrey has been described as 'the new face of DIY'. A hugely successful TV carpenter and presenter, he is currently the DIY expert on ITV's *Love Your Weekend* with Alan Titchmarsh, and his TV Carpenter podcast featuring his informative and engaging chats with top design professionals was listed in the *Sunday Times Home* Magazine's top five podcasts lists.

Wayne is one of the only professional carpenters to work on both garden and interior design makeover shows, including the BBC's *Interior Design Masters*, *Great Interior Design Challenge* and *Garden Rescue*. Over the years he has written for the *Sunday Times*, created ebooks and online courses, and loves helping members in his 'Interior Designers Support Group' and 'DIY Doers' Facebook groups.

Living in London with his wife and daughter, Wayne is so happy that he swapped the glamour of the stage and screen for the sawdust of power tools on makeover shows – he has never looked back! For more info visit his website **theTVcarpenter.com** or listen to his celebrated podcasts on **tvcarpenter.buzzsprout.com**

The Supercrafters will be sailing soon! For more info visit **supercraftcruises.com**

This month's Crafty City: Leeds

When Wayne goes back to Leeds to visit family and friends, there are two outstanding places that inspire him. The first is Kirkstall Abbey, a 12th century ruined monastery that's just 15 minutes drive from his parents' home. "Impressive and dramatic, it amazes me that it was built hundreds of years ago… but what makes me smile is that my dad (who is a builder and roofer) once told me he'd got the contract to put a new roof on it – and I believed him!"

Kirkstall Abbey is also home to a celebrated outdoor monthly market, running from the end of March until November. Set within the Abbey grounds, it features over 40 stalls with local produce and unique handmade crafts from all over Yorkshire.

"I also love the City Varieties Music Hall, hidden amongst the hustle and bustle of Leeds city centre. It's the city's oldest working theatre and is also the Guinness World Record holder for the nation's longest running music hall. I once did panto there when I was 24 – when you perform in that theatre you really feel like you're a part of history."

SUPERCRAFT FACTFILE:
Kirkstall Abbey, 0113 378 2097, **museumsandgalleries@leeds.gov.uk**
City Varieties Music Hall, 0113 243 0808, **boxoffice@leedsheritagetheatres.com**

Pop Art Father's Day Cards

Create punchy, colourful greetings for your favourite guy!

Say goodbye to old fashioned cards and make Helen Fitzjohn's pop-art inspired designs for dad this Father's Day. Use our free templates, plus marker pens and coloured card in a bright primary palette to create punchy collaged cards in an afternoon.

Free template + download crafts-beautiful.com



* Gemini stitch edge circle dies
* ProMarker pens: lipstick red, berry, sky blue, gold, honeycomb, canary
* Card: white, red, yellow, orange, purple, blue, striped, spotty
* Adhesives: glue, foam pads

Box Card

1 Transfer the box card template provided on the pattern pages onto double-sided orange and purple card. Score along the dotted lines and cut along the solid lines.

The dotted line that runs centrally across needs to be scored on the reverse so the flaps fold the right way – practise on scrap card first.

2 Glue the tab on the box and lay flat whilst it dries. Add a partition in the centre of the box. Cover the flaps with striped and spotty paper. Print, colour and cut out the cloud, plane and starburst elements. Use ProMarker pens to add shadows if you have cut the shapes from coloured card.

3 Stick the blue starburst to the partition, and the cloud and orange starburst to the back panel. Die-cut 4.5cm circles from black and 3.5cm circles from coloured card to create the discs. Add the motifs on top. Print, colour and cut out 'Dad' and the stars. Layer and stick on all the elements, using foam pads for the sentiment and stars.

Square Card

Print the templates, either directly onto coloured card or onto white and colour with alcohol markers. Layer the cloud, plane, starburst and other motifs as shown, adding die-cut circles behind the burger and guitar. Raise some elements using foam pads.

Gift Tag

Cover a piece of card, 9.5 by 10.5cm, with striped and spotty papers. Add the 'Hey Dad!' sentiment along the side and finish with a circle, motif and star. Punch a small hole in the top corner and thread with twine.



"These cards would also make great cards for teenagers, simply print or stamp a name or add a photo instead"

HELEN FITZJOHN, CB DESIGNER

COLOUR notes

Take a look at our top picks for a joyful June...

Paper Dreams



Make stunning origami creations with these specially created papers from Rico Designs. Featuring 50 sheets with fresh nature-themed prints using warm and earthy tones, these would also be ideal for scrapbooking. And it gets even better, as they're a homage to nature, they've been made using eco-conscious materials! £4.95, **fredaldous.co.uk**



WIN this set on Instagram @craftsbeautiful

Stroke of Colour

Ignite your creativity with this set of 42 acrylic paint pens, made with high-quality inks that produce a glossy, opaque finish. Create picture perfect artwork on nearly any surface, and if the idea of a blank canvas has you a bit stumped, these pens also come with a helpful step-by-step tutorial ebook with lots of ideas for both you and the kids! £32, **artistro.com** or **amazon.com**

Master Artist

Interested in trying your hand at painting but aren't quite sure where to start? This set is perfect for beginners and comes complete with an instruction guide, a Pinterest board filled with ideas and a handy Youtube tutorial. This will boost your confidence (and knowledge!) in no time. £30, **undertherowantrees.co.uk**

STAR BUYS!

Ace Accents



Level up your canvas painting by adding 3D effects with Apoxie Sculpt. This sculpting clay has a strong adhesive power and can be used to add accents to just about anything, whether you want to fix a butterfly pin to a flower or embellish a vase with beads. Not only that but it can also be painted over and cures by air overnight! From £6, **avesstudio.com**

Small Details



Add extra dimension to every design with this gorgeous pastel mini tassels pack from Violet Studio. They're an easy way to make scrapbook layouts, card designs and gift wrap extra special and can be added by simply threading through the loop and attaching to your project! £2.50, **hobbycraft.co.uk**

Colour Happy



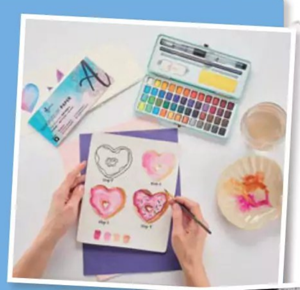
Made from pigment, clay and only a small amount of wax, Bambino Crayons have a different formula to regular crayons resulting in better saturation and easy blending. These are a perfect stash addition as they can be used by both adults and children, and will provide hours of mindful colouring fun! £7.90, **bambinocrayons.com**





INTRODUCING...
ARTISTRO

Based in the USA, Artistro is a family business founded in 2015 by Ellie, Oleg and their daughter Milana. As artists, they only offer beautiful art supplies that they truly believe in and are dedicated to helping any and every creator reach their full potential. Inspirational tutorials and how-to videos are the main focus of their social media accounts and blog and they've established an incredible, vibrant community as a result. A percentage of their sales go to various arts-related institutions, such as Chelsea's Charity which aims to bring bright colours into every child's life. Shop their products and head to **artistro.com** today.



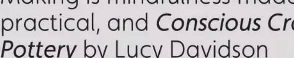




HOT OFF THE PRESS



Making is mindfulness made practical, and *Conscious Crafts: Pottery* by Lucy Davidson reveals the extensive benefits of working with clay. Drawing on the traditions of hand making, this book features 20 modern projects including imperfect pots, coasters and necklace beads to show how the pottery experience and the satisfaction of producing your own unique makes can create happiness. Filled with expert techniques that can be personalised for different projects, practical guidance and beautiful photography, we can't wait to grab some clay and take joy in slowing down. £12.99, **quarto.com**





© Photography by XDB Photography

THREE OF THE BEST...
Notebook Sets

THE ALL-IN-ONE



Offering a pencil case and notebook all in one, this mint A5 notebook comes with an accessory belt that features all your core stationery essentials. Combining style with functionality, this notebook has an embossed honeycomb design and lined pages making it perfect for everyday writing. £12, **paperchase.com**

FLORAL FANCY



For a handmade option, this gorgeous set of two notebooks has original hand-drawn illustrations on the cover inspired by soft florals and nature. Complete with sustainable packaging, this would be a thoughtful accompaniment to any stationery collection. £10, **theSunshineBindery.etsy.com**

SMALL BUT MIGHTY



For when inspiration strikes on the go, this vibrant set features three A6 notebooks – the ideal size to pop in your bag. With eye-catching botanical and celestial prints, you definitely won't lose them either, making them the perfect little set. £10.50, **oliverbonas.com**





Paint Terracotta Pots

Give your plants a pretty new home using AMSTERDAM ALL ACRYLICS paints

Upcycling is a firm favourite of ours here at CB, pair that with our new found love of gardening thanks to lockdown and these gorgeous painted terracotta pots by Corinne Bradd have gone straight to the top of our to-make list! Using Royal Talens acrylic paints, Corinne has created Instagram worthy pots and pebbles that will take pride of place in any garden.

We used...

* Royal Talens Amsterdam acrylic paints * Paintbrushes: wide, fine * Terracotta pots * Smooth pebbles * Watercolour pencil

Wavy Line Pot

1 Wash the pot with soapy water to remove any dirt and let dry. Use a wide, soft brush to cover the outside with a pale, neutral shade of paint, using two thin coats for better coverage and less visible brush marks.

2 Take a watercolour pencil in a slightly darker shade to the base coat and hold it against your flat work surface. Bring the base of the pot up to the point on the pencil. Rotate the pot against the pencil to create a level guideline a few millimetres up from the bottom. Flip the pot upside down and repeat for the top lip.

3 Use the same pencil to sketch a flowing wavy line around the base of the pot to make the first section. Use a fine brush to apply a line of paint just inside both guidelines to create smooth edges. Fill in the section with a wider brush, working the paint horizontally. Let dry and apply a second coat in the same way if needed.

4 Take the pencil and draw a parallel wavy line 3-4mm above the previous one. Add another wavy line above this, differing the peaks and troughs of the first. Use a darker or lighter shade of coloured paint to colour this section as before. Continue adding sections in this way until you reach the top, finishing with the straight guideline.

Foliage Pot

1 Prep your pot in the same way as before, washing it and covering it with a neutral shade of paint.

2 Use a wide brush to apply patches of pastel coloured paint horizontally around the pot, varying the size and vertical position. When dry use a pale shade of watercolour pencil to sketch leaf, sprig and seed head designs on the pot.

Craft smart

For added protection, spray the pots and pebbles when completely dry with a clear, acrylic sealer

3 Use a fine brush and deeper shades to paint over the pencil marks and fill in the leaf sections. Apply a thin coat first for easy removal of mistakes and then when dry go over your work with a second layer.

Painted Pebbles

1 Wash the pebbles with soapy water to remove any dirt and let dry. Use a wide, soft brush to cover one side with a pale, neutral shade of paint, using two thin coats for better coverage and less visible brush marks. Once one side is dry flip the stone over and paint the other in the same way.

2 Use a pale watercolour pencil to sketch wavy, parallel lines over one side of the pebble, or add 'patches' of darker paint to the surface before sketching leaf shapes on the top. Use a fine brush to paint inside or over the guidelines, like the pots.



Sara Naumann's

Craft Secrets

Wax Seal Embellishments

Make an impression with this historic and attractive technique!

Wax-sealed envelopes carrying royal or romantic messages may date back to the Middle Ages, but the technique is also perfect for modern-day cards! Best of all, you can dive into your own stamp stash for your seals – the point is to create texture in the wax, giving you a unique and dimensional accent. I prefer to melt the wax on my craft mat and glue it onto the project when it cools, as it allows for easier composition.

We used...

* Altenew Wax Seal Stick Set * 49 and Market Vintage Artistry Wedgewood collection pack * Altenew Courageous You and Rose Blossom stamps * 49 and Market Vintage Artistry Wedgewood Cozy stamps * Nested circle dies * White cardstock * Black stamping ink * Candle and matches * Twine * Foam pads



Postmark Motif

1 Form a white card blank, 9cm x 21.5cm. Cut patterned paper slightly smaller. Add a paper border on the left side, then glue to the card front. Stamp the sentiment onto a white die-cut circle, then layer with two more circles cut from patterned papers. Glue to the card front.

2 Place a leaf die-cut onto a craft mat and melt a gold wax puddle at the base. Stamp with a postmark image. Allow to cool, then fix to the card front along with a twine bow. Make single drops of gold wax on the mat; when cool, remove and glue to the card as accents.

How to: Make Sealing Wax Embellishments



1 Hold the lighted stick at a 45° angle and let it drip onto the mat, rotating so it melts evenly.



2 Continue until a coin-sized puddle of wax forms on the craft mat, then blow the wick out.



Colour **CLEVER**

Apply stamping ink or mica powder to your sealing wax after it cools to change the colour!

Leaf Accent

1 Form a white card blank, 13cm x 15cm. Cut patterned paper slightly smaller than the card front. Add die-cut foliage and use black ink to stamp the sentiment. Wrap the piece with twine, then glue to the card front. Add a twine bow, and adhere butterfly die-cuts with foam pads.

2 Melt a bronze wax puddle onto a craft mat and stamp with a leaf image. Allow to cool, then remove from the surface and glue to the card front. Make single drops of bronze and gold wax on the mat; when firm, remove and glue to the card as accents.



3 Press your chosen stamp firmly into the molten wax and hold it in place for 5-10 seconds.



4 Gently lift the stamp when the wax cools; if difficult to remove, wait a few more seconds.

Craft Shop



STAMP & SEAL
Altenew Wax Seal Stick Set, Courageous You and Rose Blossom stamp sets,
bumbleberrys.co.uk

NATURAL BEAUTY
49 and Market Vintage Artistry Wedgewood collection pack and stamps,
themadscrapper.co.uk



Make a Hand-Tied Bouquet

Surprise someone special with this everlasting floral gift

Dried flowers are everywhere right now, allowing you to enjoy their beauty all year round. Crafting a bouquet is a wonderful way to bring all sorts of flowers, grasses and seed heads together, as Carolyn Dunster demonstrates with this beginner-friendly version. The list of plants below is just a suggestion; experiment with mixing colours and textures to create different effects.


1


2


3


4

We used...

* Mix of dried foraged grasses, such as: moor grass, Persian rye grass, flowering rye grass * Mix of dried foraged flowers, such as: brook thistle, ox-eye daisies, yarrow, rapeseed * 12 stems of spurge * 1 ornamental onion seed head * 15 stems of barley * Mix of small and large poppy seed heads * 18 stems of greater quaking grass * 18 stems of canary grass * 3 stems of coneflower seed heads * 12 stems of love-in-a-mist seed pods * 12 stems of snow-white wood-rush * 3 stems of love-lies-bleeding * Sharp flower snips * Ribbon or twine

1 Lay all of your items in groups on a flat surface in front of you. Start with the single ornamental onion head, or another large round-headed flower, and keep this as your central point. Position the stem between the thumb and forefinger of your left hand if you are right-handed, or your right if you are left-handed. Add a spurge stem to cross over the ornamental onion stem at a slight angle using your other hand. Take hold of it with your first hand and twist clockwise.

2 Gradually add a few stems from each of the plant groups in rotation, twisting in the same direction as you go. You are holding them at what will be the binding point. Loosen your grip and hold midway down the stems for natural-looking results. The higher the binding point, the tighter the bouquet will be.

3 Aim for an even, circular distribution of flowers, grasses and seed heads, and keep checking by holding it up. It's easier to remove anything at this stage than after it is tied. When you are happy with the shape, bind the stems with twine or ribbon using a lasso-style knot.

4 To create a natural look, pull up some of the taller grasses and seed heads so that they tower above the flowers. Cut the stems to the same length on the diagonal. If you plan to display your bouquet immediately in a vase, check the height by holding the bouquet against the vase before you cut.



GET THE
book

Discover more about growing, drying, and creating your own floral arrangements in *Cut & Dry* by Carolyn Dunster (Laurence King, £17.99), **laurenceking.com**

Upcycled Bottles

Transform your glass recycling into must-have home décor

We all love a spot of upcycling here at CB and Jill Alblas' pretty project really fits the bill. A few empty bottles, a spot of paint and some homemade stencils form the basics. We're all thinking of time outside and what better way to brighten a summer evening on the patio than these hand painted bottles and candles? And because any of these would make a lovely gift, we've included a selection of quick-to-make tags too.



We used...

✳ Small beer and wine bottles ✳ Acrylic paint: white, magenta, pink, pale blue, dark blue, yellow ✳ Matt varnish, suitable for water-based paint ✳ Sponge ✳ Stencil brush ✳ Small fine and large soft brushes ✳ Ribbons ✳ White card ✳ Double-sided tape

Multi-Coloured Flowers

1 Wash the bottle in warm soapy water and dry thoroughly. Decant pale blue paint in an old saucer. Dip the sponge in the paint then apply to the bottle in a gentle bouncing motion. Leave to dry then repeat to give the bottle an even coverage. Allow to dry fully.

2 Refer to the template provided on the pattern pages and use a sharp knife to cut four stencils from paper. Decant a little magenta, pink, white and dark blue paint into dishes or pots and keep a different stencil for each colour. It doesn't matter which colour you start with but let

one dry before overlapping and stencilling the next. Place a stencil on the bottle; you don't need to tape it down, just hold it flat and firmly against the surface with your fingers. Use a stencil brush to dab the paint then remove the stencil.

3 Continue in this way to stencil the bottle in the design of your choice. Leave to dry thoroughly then use a large soft brush to seal with a coat of varnish. Add the final flourish by tying with ribbons and inserting a candle.

Stencilled Daisies

Wash and dry the bottle and sponge with dark blue paint as before. Cut three stencils. Hold one firmly on the bottle and apply white paint. Repeat to stencil daisies round the bottle in the design of your choice. Add a yellow dot to the centre of each flower. When dry, apply varnish as before then tie with ribbons.

Large & Small Blooms

1 Prepare the bottle then sponge with magenta. Cut a stencil. Hold it onto the bottle in the position of your choice and apply pale pink. Repeat as many times as you wish round the bottle.

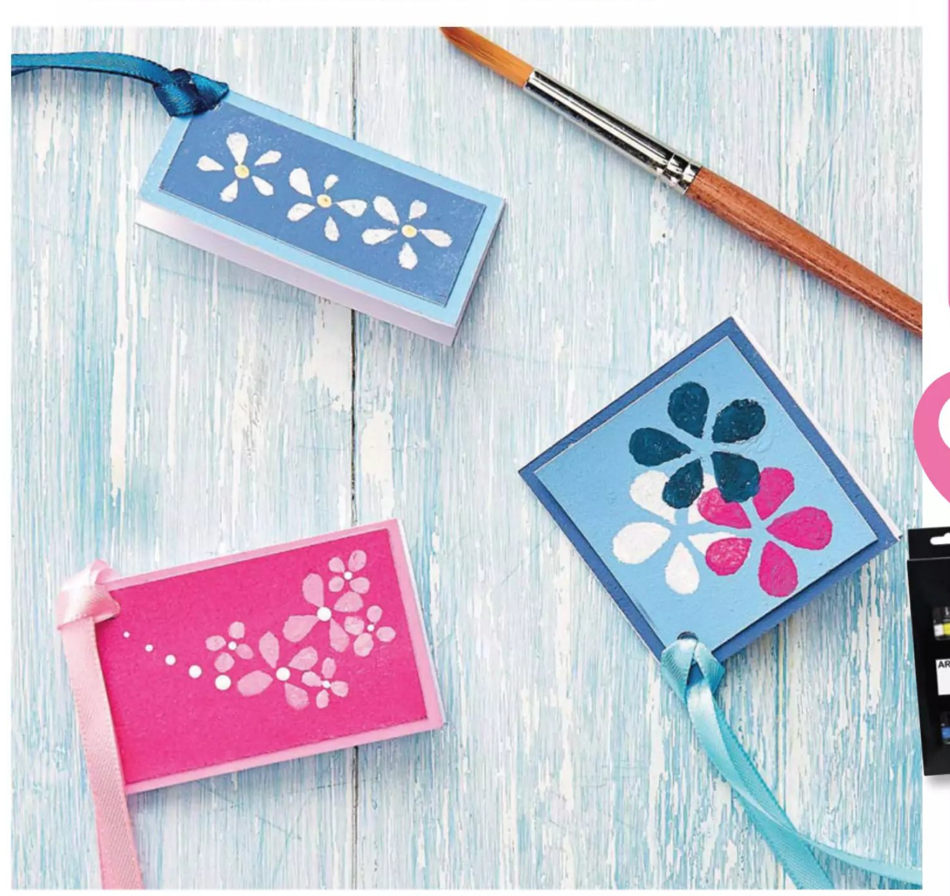
2 When dry, use a fine brush to paint a few flowers freehand amongst the stencilling. Mix a paler pink and add some highlights to the centres of the flowers. Use white paint to add garlands of large and small dots amongst the flowers. Varnish and tie with ribbons.



STENCIL SUCCESS

Crafts Beautiful designer Jill Alblas provides her expert advice

* Sponging is an easy and effective way to apply an even coat of paint to just about any kind of surface.
* When cutting stencils, a very sharp knife is essential. Always use a new blade and change it regularly.
* Inexpensive scouring sponges from the supermarket are ideal for this. Just snip off the scouring side and you're ready to go.
* Ragged edges on the stencilling can be carefully retouched with paint and a fine brush.



Gift Tags

Paint card in a colour to match your chosen bottle and stencil with the appropriate flowers. Trim, then use double-sided tape to secure on a toning card colour. Fix on white card and fold to make a tag. Punch a hole through the top and thread with ribbon.





Floral Tea Set

Transform plain white crockery into a thing of beauty, using ceramic paint pens! They allow you to paint with accuracy, without the need for brushes and messy colour palettes, and the opaque effects are nothing short of professional. This lovely tea set is adorned with an eclectic range of shapes and swirls, and all the patterns are available to download free on our website – so what are you waiting for?



80 FREE PAINTING PROJECTS

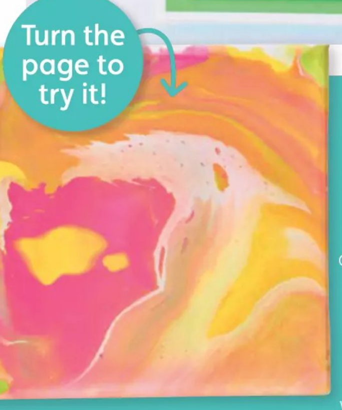
Looking for inspiration? Grab your brushes and create one of these lovely makes over at ***crafts-beautiful.com***

Dye Ink Greetings

Dye ink-pads come in a limitless range of beautiful colours, and while they're wonderful for stamping images, they can also double up as watercolours. Simply press your ink-pad onto a non-porous craft sheet or glass mat. Spritz some water next to the ink and create a watery wash. Be sure to use a permanent pigment ink to stamp your image to prevent smearing, and you can also heat-set it before painting.



Turn the page to try it!



Easy Paint Pouring

The art of acrylic paint pouring is fascinating. There are many different techniques, but this project features a simple method that is great for those who've never tried it before. The exciting part is that you don't really know how each finished piece will turn out, so that each one is totally unique. Use this technique to create trendy canvases, a tile greeting card, or add some pizzazz to a gift box.

Bird Table Runner

The pretty twirly bird motifs on this crisp white cotton runner have been painted using fuss-free fabric paint pens, making it easy to create a hand-painted effect. The stencil is traced onto the fabric using a pen before being accentuated with a metallic highlighter, which catches the light and produces an embellished effect. Just add a steady hand, plus a lightbox wouldn't go amiss if you have one!



Embossed Watercolour Greetings

Watercolour is a staple for many papercrafters. If you love the look of these multi-purpose paints but want to skip the brush, then watercolour pens are a great option. Brush nibs allow you to apply traditional washes and colour in detailed stamped images, plus they're easy to control as you dictate the amount of liquid released by adjusting your pressure. Combine with gold embossing powder details for extra shine!





Nesting Dolls Set

Create a contemporary take on the traditional nesting doll, dispensing with the usual style of dressing and giving this blank family a unique look with acrylic paints, complete with yummy cupcakes and soft pastel shades. Our dolly faces are edged with pretty scalloped bonnets, and their sweetheart lips and beady black eyes add extra detail. This motif could also be used to customise ceramics and make greeting cards.



Painted Berries Tin

If you like a paint finish on your projects, and want clean accurate lines as well, then paint pens are just for you! Trace our berry patterns on our website onto a painted background, then colour them in with the security of knowing that if you make a mistake you can simply reapply another shade. This method is perfect for tidying up borders or adding detail over flat colours.



Glass Painted Roses

Take your craft cue from Rennie Mackintosh to create beautiful items with glass painting. We combined a rose motif from his elegant Art Nouveau style with some simple glass painting to decorate a window hanger, vase, mirror and greeting. First, you go over the lines of the design in grey outliner then when dry, fill the areas within with pink and green glass paints, mimicking the effect of stained glass.

Queen Bee Gift Set

Tiny rambling blooms are painted onto this lovely collection using a soft colour palette. The florals are irregular in shape and have a circle of colour in the centre, and the lettering is picked out with a metallic pen. Use the templates supplied on our website to suit the item you want to decorate or draw and paint the patterns in freehand. The spray design can be applied so that it hangs in a downward direction or curl it up from the base.

Funky Silk Painting

Set your inner artist free with these vibrant silk painted designs. Inspired by organic shapes, the strong lines and bright colours will complement most contemporary décor, and would make a great house-warming gift. If you have always loved the look of this technique, but never taken the plunge, this is an ideal project to get started with. For those who don't feel ready to commit to buying a frame, grab yourself an embroidery hoop, and have a go at the gorgeous greetings instead.





Want more like this? Visit **crafts-beautiful.com** for our collection of painting projects and keep an eye out for our latest updates!

Paint Pouring

Add a splash of colour to your homewares with this top technique



PAINTING SPECIAL

Craft smart

The more you stir the silicone oil into the paint, the smaller the cells will be. Be careful not to overstir as the cells will not form



THE NEW BOHEMIANS

The Art of TAPESTRY WEAVING



Paint pouring has become extremely popular and with good reason – it's so easy to get great results and is very addictive. Start with a good quality kit as this will help you get to know the medium as you make Maria Christensen's beautiful canvases, coasters and plant pot in swirling colours.



We used...

* Arteza paint pouring kit * Silicone oil * Pots or plastic cups * Gesso * 8" x 8" canvas * MDF coasters * 10cm diameter plant pot * Felt * Varnish

Canvas

1 Cover your work area with a protective sheet. Hammer a nail at each corner on the back of the frame. This makes it easier to handle and allows the canvas to dry without touching anything. Use a tray or something similar to stand your canvas on, so you can move it to a safe place whilst it dries.

2 Pour each of your chosen colours of pre-mixed pouring paint into separate cups. For the 8" x 8" size you will need approximately 80ml of paint, so for four colours you will need 20ml of each. Add a few drops of silicone oil to each cup, this will help create the cells.

3 Pour a little of each colour into another cup and alternate between them until you've used up all the colours. Position the canvas on top of the cup so the cup is in the middle. Hold tight then flip over quickly so that the cup is now on top of the canvas. Lift the cup and allow the paint to flow out. Once the cup is empty remove and tip the canvas around until it's covered and you have a pattern that you like.

4 Leave to dry flat in a safe place. It will take about a week to dry but a month to fully cure. Once completely dry apply a coat of varnish. Add additional elements and a sentiment if you wish.

Plant Pot

1 Prepare your work area and paints as before. Prime the pot with white gesso, then sit it upside down on a plastic cup. If it has a hole in the bottom, cover with a piece of card.

2 Pour the paint over the pot so it flows over the edge. Make sure all of it gets covered. Leave to dry and protect with varnish. Once hardened, trim the drips off the top of the pot and neaten with paint or gilding polish. Paint the inside with a contrasting colour.

Coasters

1 Prepare your work area and use a tray as for the canvas. Prime the coasters with white gesso. Pour your chosen colours into separate cups, add a few drops of silicone oil and gently stir a couple of times.

2 Pour a little paint on the coasters alternating between colours. Tip them around until they are covered, and you have a pattern that you like. Leave to dry as for the canvas.

3 Apply gilding polish to the edge of the coasters. Cover the coasters with a heat resistant varnish if you are going to put hot cups on them. Once dry, adhere coordinating felt to the bottom of the coasters.



Craft Shop



POUR AWAY
We used the Arteza acrylic pouring paint set in Orchid Tones. £22.99, **arteza.co.uk**



TEA TIME
This set of square MDF coasters is perfect for decorating! £4.95, **candybox crafts.co.uk**

GO GADGET GO!

Ready for some post-lockdown shopping? Add these crafty must-haves to your list!

Now that restrictions have eased, we're all looking forward to some serious retail therapy at our favourite craft stores! If you discovered the joys of crafting last year, or rekindled a past interest, you may want to upgrade your tools in order to develop your skills further. Check out this shopping guide for our top crafty gadgets, ranging from lemonade to champagne budgets, to really give your creativity a boost.

UNDER £50

WOOLLY MAMMOTH WEAVING LOOM KIT

This rectangular loom is the largest yet in Wool Couture's range, measuring a whopping 49cm x 59cm. Despite its size, you'll find it simple to assemble and use, plus it can be easily stored away and transported. Craft weavings in landscape or portrait, make one giant work or a number of smaller ones, create wall hangings, decorations, cushions – the possibilities are endless! From £50, **woolcouturecompany.com**



WOW DUAL SPEED HEAT TOOL

If you fancy incorporating embossing powders into your crafting, then a good heat tool is a stash essential. Designed by WOW! Embossing Powders especially to use with their range, this model provides two settings, with focused heat and more control to ensure a perfect finish. It would also be handy for quickly drying paints, glues and inks, and shrinking plastic too! £21.60, **wowembossingpowder.co.uk**





TIM HOLTZ STAMP PLATFORM

Say goodbye to eye measuring and guessing whether your stamped design will line up straight. This stamping platform features strong magnets which keep your design in place, so you can focus on the fun part and stamp away. It has also been specially created to ensure that an even contact is applied during each press, so you can achieve professional results every time. £32.99, **tonic-studios.co.uk**

FISKARS SIMPLE TAG MAKER

Make perfect, multiple labels with ease using this handy punch, which can cut through paper, cardboard and photo paper up to a thickness of 240gsm. What's more, this gadget also allows you to set eyelets into your tag at one end for a really professional finish! £30.39, **amazon.co.uk**





SILHOUETTE MINT CUSTOM STAMP MAKER

Having trouble finding the exact stamp that you need? Create your own using the Silhouette Mint Custom Stamp Maker! Simply create 3D reliefs of your designs, or those from the Silhouette Design Store on Mint™ stamp sheets using its clever thermal printing ability. These can then be inked up and used just like any other stamp. £59.99, **graphtecgb.shop**



WE R MEMORY KEEPERS LASER SQUARE AND MAT

Accuracy is key to achieving a professional finish, which is where this clever two-in-one tool comes in! It features lasers which are adjusted with dials to form your guidelines on the grid-lined mat, aided by the side ruler bars, so you can position embellishments, stamps or other features just right. Perfect! £51.51, **craftelier.com**



GEMINI FOILPRESS MACHINE

Add an extra shine to your makes courtesy of this hot press foiling machine which includes a temperature control feature and LCD timer, so you can work with a multitude of materials safely. What's more, it heats up quickly, so you can begin adding foiled accents as quickly as possible! Silicone finger grips, magnetic tweezers, and a silicone cooling mat are also included. £99.99, **crafterscompanion.co.uk**

SCREEN SENSATION 12" X 12" KIT

Designed by Stephanie Weightman, the Screen Sensation brings the traditional art of screen printing up to date! This versatile gadget can be used for various crafts including batch-making cards, textiles, scrapbooking, and home décor. The Screen Sensation Grey 12 x 12 kit includes the screen printing system and frame in a stylish new grey colour, plus tools and a mixing bowl, perfect for beginners! £29.99, **crafting.co.uk**





JANOME M200 QDC

From sewing and dressmaking to quilting, the M200 QDC can handle it all with more than 200 built-in stitches to choose from, including 12 styles of buttonhole and an alphabet. This powerful machine also offers an extended table for large projects, plus a superior feed system, auto thread cutter, bobbin winder and even a handy pincushion! £699, **janome.co.uk**



GEMINI PRO

The Gemini die-cutting collection from Crafter's Companion is well-known for high quality, reliable machines and their latest model is no exception. The Pro offers their largest cutting platform yet at 12", allowing you to supersize your die-cutting and embossing projects, and it can handle pretty much anything you throw at it! £449.99, **crafterscompanion.co.uk**

WIN a Gemini Pro over on page 35!



BROTHER DESIGN N CRAFT PRINTER

The Brother Design n Craft Printer (VC-500W) proves that good things come in small packages! This little workhorse is packed with hundreds of built-in clip art and symbols, allowing you to design full-colour labels on your computer, smartphone or tablet before printing them out. You can personalise gifts, organise your craft stash, and so much more! £282, **brother.co.uk**

Find out more about this must-have gadget on page 86

THE DAYLIGHT COMPANY SLIMLINE 3 FLOOR LAMP

It's important to work in good lighting whilst crafting in order to protect your eyesight, so this lamp is a great investment! It provides a strong, natural light with four brightness levels and the long lamp shape provides a better spread of light and diffusion, plus it can easily be adjusted to aim exactly where you need to see most clearly. £141.29, **amazon.co.uk**





Settle down with a cuppa and our top picks that'll capture your imagination this month. From zero-waste kitchen crafts to a mystery novel waiting to be unravelled, these will let your mind wander and broaden your horizons



MASTER ARTIST

From creating painterly table settings for summer gatherings right through to Christmas gifts and decorations, the seasonally-inspired guide, *Paint, Make and Create* by Becki Clark, has made getting to grips with painting seamless. With 25 contemporary projects, Becki draws on her vast experience in the craft world to help your creativity flourish. £14.99, **pen-and-sword.co.uk**



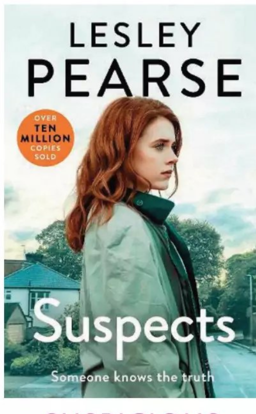
CLEVER CRAFTING

Turn your kitchen into a green zone with *Zero Waste: Kitchen* by Emma Friedlander-Collins and Christine Leech, as they provide crafty solutions for everything, from 'unpaper' towels to citrus antibacterial wipes and handmade dishcloths. Clever crafting is at the heart of this book, and there is a project for everyone no matter what your skill level is! £9.99, **davidandcharles.com**



EASY UPCYCLING

The traditional craft of rag rugging has been reinvented by Elspeth Jackson in her book, *Rag Rugs, Pillows, and More*, where she has created a gorgeous guide on upcycling fabric to create contemporary homeware items. Not only does it feature 30 must-make projects, you'll also find an ultimate guide to choosing fabrics, endless colour combinations and top tools. £12.99, **cicobooks.co.uk**



SUSPICIOUS SECRETS

After moving into what they'd thought was their dream neighbourhood, Nina and Conrad quickly realise that all the residents harbour their own secrets and dark things are happening behind closed doors. The latest release from bestselling author Lesley Pearse, *Suspects* is a compelling yet heartwarming novel which shows storytelling at it's very best. £20, **penguin.co.uk**

OVER TO YOU… *Here's what you've been reading this month!*



CHARLOTTE (@FUNKYMAKERS)… "I have been reading *Move The Needle: Yarns from an Unlikely Entrepreneur* by Shelley Brander, it's a fascinating insight into how she started her business, and the ups and downs she faced to achieve success."



MICHELLE DUNN… "I've been reading the *A Discovery of Witches* trilogy by Deborah Harkness after seeing the TV series. The books went so much more in-depth and really built a full picture of each character – I really recommend them!"



LAUREN JOHN… "I got Sarah Morgan's *One More For Christmas* as a Christmas present but only just got round to finishing it! The characters were so interesting and there was so much family emotion, it was very well written."

WANT TO APPEAR HERE IN OUR NEXT ISSUE? Head over to our **Facebook, Twitter or Instagram** and let us know what you've been reading recently. You might find your comment here or even your book club pick!



When inspiration strikes on the go you need the Cass Art Professional Watercolour Quarter Pan & Brush Travel Pouch, £39.95, **cassart.co.uk**

A must-have for budding watercolour artists, you'll love this Winsor and Newton Professional Colour Chart, **artsupplies.co.uk**

It's only right that you carry these supplies in style with a Bolga Shopping Basket, £65, **lolaandmawu.com**

PAINTING SPECIAL

A PAINTER'S PALETTE

Ready to take the leap into your painting journey? Get started with these artist essentials

Display your work with pride with a 59 inch Studio Easel Wooden A-Frame, £16.11, **amazon.co.uk**

A smooth, contemporary finish... every time. Annie Sloan Flat Brushes, £9.95, **anniesloan.com**





Go back to basics with Paint By Numbers, £7.99, **fredaldous.co.uk**

Get the tools of the trade with this Canvas Multi-Pack, £25.99, **arteza.co.uk**

Browse the stunning selection of Chalk Paint® at **anniesloan.com**

LEARN SOMETHING NEW!

BOOST YOUR Craft Skills

COLETTE SMITH



Get creative with Colette Smith's striking embossed card

We used...

- Faber Castell Mixed Media Pad
- Ultimate Crafts Merci hot foil stamp die
- Sizzix Thinlits Flowers w/ Envelope die set (#665078)
- Tim Holtz Ranger Distress Oxide Tumbled Glass ink-pad
- Little Things from Lucy's Cards clear iridescent jewels
- Cardstock: pale blue, pale pink, bright pink, lime, peach
- Adhesives

Tips

- Make sure to use thick card for this technique such as multi media or watercolour.
- Pigment inks work best as dye inks will not cling to the metal die and will leave a patchy image.

HOW TO Create a Faux Letterpress



1 Use a blending brush or blending foam to evenly apply ink onto a Merci hot foil stamp die. Trim mixed media card to 10cm x 14cm.



2 Very carefully lay the hot foil stamp centrally towards the top. Run through a die-cutting machine, carefully lift off the stamp and set aside to dry.



3 Meanwhile, die-cut the envelope and flowers, making as many blooms and leaves as desired in different colours, and assemble.



4 Cover a 10.5cm x 14.5cm blank with bright pink card. Matt the letterpress panel on top. Attach the envelope under the wording and finish with gems.

NEXT LEVEL

Watercolour Splash Backgrounds

Let Kitty Day guide you to create painterly effects!

Painting has been one of the top crafty pastimes in recent months, especially watercolour effects. They are so easy to master and have been used here with inks to create vibrant greetings. With this technique no two will be the same.

We used...

* Birch Press Designs Sugar Script Hugs dies * The Stamp Market Thank You dies * My Favorite Things Die-namics Hello dies * Avery Elle CelebRAYtion stamps * Distress Inks: Picked Raspberry, Mustard Seed, Twisted Citron, Peacock Feathers, Black Soot, Spiced Marmalade, Salty Ocean * Altenew Botanical Rhapsody washi tape * Watercolour card * Striped patterned paper * Acetate * Black fineliner pen * Bubble embellishments * Adhesives

Match & Tone

Create a background with the painting technique described opposite, using blue and turquoise inks. Stamp and colour the sea creature motifs, then fix in place with foam pads. Attach a die-cut sentiment in the middle, then finish off with some pearls.

Create a Contrast

Make a watercolour splash background with pink, orange and yellow inks, adding splatters of black ink when dry. Fix a layered die-cut sentiment in the centre, then draw a frame around the panel. Add bubble embellishments around the sentiment.



Stand Out

Add a touch of black and white to make bright colours pop



LEARN SOMETHING NEW!

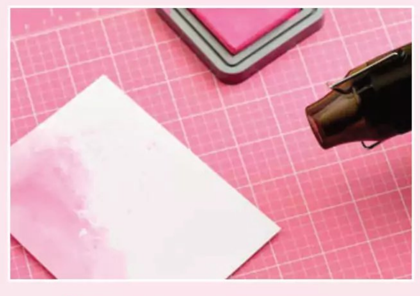
Mix & Match

Use a colour wheel to see which shades work best and blend together

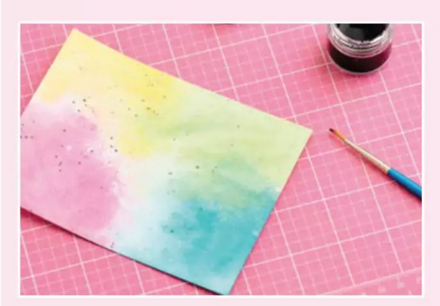




1 Trim a rectangle of watercolour card, 10cm x 14cm, and acetate, 11.5cm x 15cm. Rub pink ink onto acetate and lightly spray with water.



2 Place face down onto the watercolour card, gently rubbing your fingers on the back to spread the ink. Dry with a heat gun.



3 Repeat until each of the colours have been applied. Gently flick some watery black ink onto the panel.



4 Assemble the panel onto a card base, fixing striped paper to the side. Add the sentiment, flowers and bubble embellishments.

NEXT MONTH...

Kitty shows us how to make Dutch easel cards

Craft Shop



DOUBLE BUBBLE
Add sparkle with these iridescent bubble embellishments. £2.99, **lucys-shop.com**

COLOUR CODE
Create watercolour effects with Tim Holtz Distress Inks. £4.99, **afth.co.uk**



ASK THE EXPERTS

Got a crafty problem? Find the answers you need right here!



Is there an easy way to create 3D paper flowers?

Stephanie says... Fleurs dies are perfect for creating three-dimensional flowers, in paper, card, and more! They're designed to cut everything you need for at least one complete flower in a single pass through your cutting machine, and they're easily built up to include sepals, stamens and leaves for every last detail.



Can I use my Brother ScanNCut for more than just die-cutting?



Corinne says... You certainly can – grab yourself a ScanNCut Stamp Starter Kit and you can create your own bespoke stamps! Remove one of the protective films from a stamp making sheet and lay the clingy side onto a clean cutting mat, smoothing it down to remove any air bubbles. Set the cut pressure and blade height as recommended before performing a test cut and adjusting the settings as necessary. Select an image from the machine's library or scan your own and resize to suit. Cut the motifs from the sheet and peel them off the mat. Remove the top protective film and place the stamps onto acrylic blocks.

Why do my stamped motifs keep bleeding after colouring them in?

Ingrid says... It's important to learn about the properties of individual inks and their compatibility with other colouring mediums like watercolours or alcohol-based markers. A good rule of thumb here is opposites attract. If you intend to use alcohol markers then you need an alcohol marker-friendly water-based ink. On the other hand, if you decide on watercolours or any water-based pens to colour your image, then use an archival ink.

I'd like to try paint pouring, but how can I avoid just making a mess?

Ingrid says... Don't panic, zero art experience is required to create abstract painterly effects for your projects. I'd recommend starting out with Color Pour Magic paints which come premixed with pouring medium and cell magic so you don't need to stress about getting the correct measurements. Just shake the paint, go with the flow and completely immerse yourself in this somewhat messy but ultra satisfying technique!



MEET OUR EXPERTS

LEARN SOMETHING NEW!

RESIDENT EXPERT



STEPHANIE WEIGHTMAN

Stephanie shares her expertise in **die-cutting, screen printing** and more



INGRID VICHOVA

Designer Ingrid reveals her top **mixed media hacks** for stunning results



CORINNE BRADD

CB regular Corinne gives the benefit of her **die-cutting experience**

Is there a simple way to make an exploding box card?

Sarah says... Exploding box cards are such a fun way to give your friends and family a surprise – watch as they realise just how special that handmade greeting is. Most of the projects and kits will include a template which takes all of the hard work out of making the structure – simply trace around the outside onto card, cut out, score and fold. Apply a dab of glue to the side tabs to assemble the box shape. Try adding pop-out toppers attached to acetate strips, or keep it low-key by gluing the motifs within the box.





My Brother ScanNCut isn't die-cutting properly, what can I do?

Corinne says... Check your blade is sharp and free from paper fibres and perform a test cut on the same weight cardstock before you start your project. Also, remember to secure your card to the sticky mat properly before starting as intricate cutting patterns will cause the blade to change direction suddenly and this may cause the card to shift if the mat has lost its tack.





I've just purchased a Brother ScanNCut – have you got any tips?

Corinne says... To get started, select 'Pattern' on the homepage screen and you'll find a library full of ready-to-cut motifs, letters and phrases. Choose your design and bring it to the centre of the cutting mat on the screen. From there, you can resize your motif, flip, edit or add layers. Once you're happy with it and ready to cut, take the sticky cutting mat, adhere your chosen cardstock on top and feed it into the machine arrow first. Pop the blade in and press start to cut. The SDX automatically adjusts the height of the blade so you don't have to worry about that.

What is die embossing and is it easy to do?

Ingrid says... Die embossing is a great way to get even more out of your dies which can be used to create beautiful imprints as well as cut shapes. The only difference between this technique and die-cutting is that you place a rubber mat underneath the card before running it with the dies through your machine, which absorbs some of the pressure and prevents the metal piercing through. It's perfect for adding sentiments, focal features or beautiful backgrounds, plus it works with all thin dies, making your stash twice as useful!



I can't get a good print with my Screen Sensation, what am I doing wrong?

Stephanie says... Screen printing can take a bit of practice to get it just right. It could be that the angle of the squeegee isn't optimal – it needs around a 45-degree angle to work as you spread the ink over the print. Also, make sure you're using a healthy amount of ink and that you're spreading it slowly and evenly. Don't worry about using too much, you can always scrape any excess back into the pot.

The Stitching edit

Check out our vibrant picks that'll have you summer ready in no time...



BOHO CHIC

You can never have enough plants, so why not crochet them a gorgeous home? This boho plant basket pattern from Yarn and Colors can be adapted to fit your plant and made to suit your interior décor, a win-win for the plant and you! We recommend choosing a bright yarn for a year-round summer fix. £4, **yarnandcolors.com**



STASH HAVEN

Keep your sewing stash safe and secure with this sturdy basket in an all-over floral print that will add a touch of charm to any craft room. With a built-in pin cushion and pocket, and a plastic removable tray with separate compartments, you can keep all those easy-to-lose bits and bobs in one place. £35, **johnlewis.com**



MASTER SEWIST

With a sleek design, this Necchi sewing machine and accessories bundle is the perfect set for keen sewers, as it's specifically designed to make every project easier and faster. Featuring 200 stitches, an extension table for larger projects and a 167-piece sewing kit, you'll be able to get started as soon as it arrives! £400, **hobbycraft.co.uk**



QUICK CUTS

Once you start using a rotary cutter, you'll wonder why you ever used scissors all this time. Engineered for quilting purposes, this handy tool offers precise and quality cutting of all materials. Not only is the geometric print a fun touch, it's much easier to find under our piles of fabric. £16.99, **mysewingbox.co.uk**

ABSTRACT ART

Brightly coloured fabric is a summer must-have and this beautifully abstract cotton lawn one from Lady McElroy would be ideal for an eye-catching dress. Featuring shapes, flowers and contrasting patterns on a white background, it's making us want to create a whole new wardrobe! £8 per metre, **sewmesunshine.co.uk**

FUN THREAD

Bring the colour with this Gutermann bulky lock thread. Perfect for needle or looper thread, you can create fashionable, decorative seams and vibrant effects with heavy to medium-weight fabrics on an overlock and cover-stitch sewing machine. £6.48 per spool, **williamgee.co.uk**

Pick of the Kit: Woven labels



SEW ADORABLE

For any sewists, this pack of adorable labels is a lovely treat for your me-made wardrobe, and can easily be sewn in by machine or hand. It's never been easier to give your makes a professional upgrade! £9.50, **paigejoannax.etsy.com**



HANDMADE WITH LOVE

These rainbow handmade labels will certainly add a pop of colour to any make. Made with high-quality thread, these are washable, durable, non-scratchy and come in recycled packaging. £5.50, **sewmesunshine.co.uk**



SEWIST'S ESSENTIAL

Sewing is definitely our jam here at CB, so we thought these were a perfect pick. These woven labels are end-folded so can be sewn onto any garment simply by top-stitching each end. £5.75, **thevillagehaberdashery.co.uk**



Tea Party Set

Pretty up your garden table with these colourful appliqué accessories

Now that we are able to get together outdoors with a few family members and friends, why not make it a proper celebration with some mini bunting and smart coasters, plus matching cards to send out your invitations? This project uses a mixture of free motion appliqué and simple sewing techniques, perfect for a tea party in your garden, or just to make a regular cuppa more fancy.



We used...

* Coloured cotton fabric
* Fusible web * Firm weight iron-on interfacing * Bias binding or ribbon
* Gutermann machine thread
* Blank card

All seam allowances are 10mm unless specified.

Greeting Card

1 Draw around a blank card onto iron-on interfacing to create a good template for the front. Iron this onto the back of your chosen fabric. Trim the edges to the size you want with scissors or pinking shears.

2 Trace the flower and teacup templates provided on the pattern pages onto fusible web and cut out loosely. Iron to the back of fabric scraps and trim neatly. Remove the backing and iron onto the card front panel. Free motion embroider the pieces in place with contrasting thread, sewing the flowers first, then adding the teacup on top.

3 Sew the fabric panel to the front of the card around the edge. If the greeting doesn't stand up, fix a piece of card inside to hide the stitches and provide stability. Trim any excess with a craft knife.

Buy it...

Card blanks, **bakerross.co.uk**

SOPHIA PALMER



"Want bigger flags? Cut a paper template of any sized triangle, just don't forget your seam allowance"

CB DESIGNER

Stitch smart

If you don't like the trickiness of sewing circular coasters, you can make square ones instead



Buy it...
Fat quarters and bias binding, **hobbycraft.co.uk**

Coasters

1 Trace around the circle template on iron-on interfacing. Cut out loosely, leaving at least 1cm around the edge and Iron onto your chosen fabric. Draw around the flower or teacup templates on fusible web and cut out loosely. Iron to the back of your chosen fabrics and cut out each one neatly.

2 Peel off the backing paper and iron in place onto the interfaced circle. Free motion embroider the pieces in position with contrasting thread. Place the circle on top of a larger fabric piece, right sides together, then sew around the drawn template line leaving a 5cm gap.

3 Cut around the edge, trimming the seam allowance to roughly 5mm and snip small slits into the seam allowance, all the way around. Turn right side out through the gap and press flat. Topstitch around the edge to neaten and seal the gap closed as you sew.

Buy it...
Vlieseline interfacing and Bondaweb, **ladysewandsew.co.uk**



Mini Bunting

1 Use the bunting template to cut out various triangles, you'll need two per flag. Sew a pair of triangles, right sides together, down the two longer sides, leaving the top open. Trim the point. Turn right side out and press flat. Trim the seam allowance at the top to form a straight edge. Repeat to make the desired amount of flags.

2 Cut a long piece of ribbon or bias binding and press it in half. Slide each flag into the crease, fold the binding over it and pin. The ribbon fold should run along the full length, encasing each flag in between. Leave a long length at each end for tying. Sew a long straight line across your ribbon, slightly closer to the open edge, securing each flag. Trim the ends with pinking shears.

Floral Embroidery Hoop

Grab your paintbrushes and needles to create this mixed media wall art

PAINTING SPECIAL

GET THE book

Combine painting with other crafts to make even more lovely projects in *Paint Make Create* by Becki Clark (White Owl, £15.99), **pen-and-sword.co.uk**





Give painterly florals a touch of texture by combining painting and embroidery to make Becki Clark's pretty hoop. This is the perfect Sunday afternoon craft; start by painting your fabric and letting it dry in the sunshine before cosying up on the sofa with a cup of tea, needle and thread.



We used...

⁎ Linen or other embroidery fabric ⁎ Embroidery hoop ⁎ Fabric paint ⁎ Flat paint brush ⁎ Embroidery thread in your chosen colours ⁎ Embroidery needle ⁎ Glue

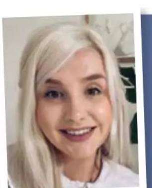
1 Secure the fabric in an embroidery hoop and choose your colour palette. For this project, classic pinks and greens were used, but the design would look great in any colour combination. Using a small paint brush, begin painting your floral motifs freehand in the middle of the hoop. The two shapes on the left are simple circles with holes in the centre and the petal shape on the right is painted using four semi circles joined together [**1**].

2 Next, paint the leaf shapes, using one shade of green, or several different ones for a more colourful look. Try a mix of sizes and work your way out from the centre of the design. You don't want anything too close to the edges of the hoop or it will be too hard to stitch onto. Add dots as floral buds around the design. You can paint as many as you like; the key thing is to keep the design centred and use a cluster of three painted flowers as the main point of focus. When happy with the design, let the paint dry [**2**].

3 Once it is dry, you can embellish the work with embroidery. Use a simple long stitch in contrasting colours to add texture. Using the painting as your guide, long stitch horizontally across one half of each leaf. Take a contrasting colour and stitch vertically down the leaf to give an interesting 3D texture to your design. Embroider half the leaves on the design and leave the rest [**3**].

4 Use yellow thread to stitch across the unpainted flower centres. You can add more stitching to the flowers if you prefer, or keep to the combination of strong painterly 'petals' and the embroidered centre [**4**]. Work smaller long stitches in light pink over a few of the berries. You can also embroider areas that aren't painted; a few smaller stitched berries were added in some of the empty spaces to ensure the design looked balanced.

5 When happy with the design, trim the excess material from around the hoop. You can cut a piece of cardboard the same size as the work and glue to the back to tidy it up and make sure there are no stitches or excess threads on show.



STITCH & PAINT

DESIGNER AND AUTHOR BECKI CLARK PROVIDES HER TOP TIPS

⁎ Try a small hoop to begin with if you are a beginner.

⁎ Practise painting your motif shapes on paper before working on fabric. You should also practise your stitches on an off cut of fabric before you start.

⁎ Linen works well as the paint is absorbed right in the material to create nice opaque motifs.

• If you use a different embroidery fabric, try something without too much texture.


3


4

Marine Towel Set

Pep up an everyday essential using cross-stitch

Give your bathroom a nautical makeover by cross-stitching a shoal of colourful fish to adorn your towels. It's one of the easiest techniques you can learn when embroidering, all you need is an evenweave fabric that offers a subtle mesh of holes to help guide you. This simple design is perfect for a relaxing spa day at home, or you could whip up a set as a lovely housewarming gift.



We used...

* Aida band: 5cm x 1m; 3cm x 50cm
* Hand towel, 50cm x 90cm
* Face cloth, 30cm square
* Six-stranded embroidery thread: orange, coral pink, cobalt blue, grey, yellow
* Tapestry needle
* Embroidery hoop

1cm seam allowance used throughout, unless otherwise stated.

1 Place the wider Aida fabric band in an embroidery hoop, with the centre of the band positioned in the middle of the hoop. Make sure the fabric is taut but not over-stretched.

2 This project uses three strands of embroidery thread throughout. Thread the tapestry needle with cobalt blue and begin stitching the wave motif in cross-stitch, following the chart provided on the pattern pages: one coloured block represents one cross-stitch. Embroider as much of the wave that will fit within the hoop.

3 With orange thread, sew the tangerine fish, again following the chart and completing as much of the design as will fit within the hoop. When that section has been embroidered, remove the hoop and move it along to the next section.

4 Repeat steps 1-2 for the narrower band, working from the other chart. When both bands are complete, press lightly on the reverse to get rid of any creases. Pin the wider band across the width of the towel and the narrower band across the face cloth.

5 Trim the ends, allowing 2cm of unstitched band at either end to fold under and neaten the ends. Using a sewing thread and needle, oversew the edges of the band in place all the way around.



"If you can't get hold of an Aida band, cut a strip of Aida and add a lace trim to either side"

SUSIE JOHNS, CB DESIGNER

Craft smart

The wider Aida band used here has 29 holes across its width, while the narrower version has 14. The charted motifs have been designed to fit these two widths but could easily be adapted to fit other widths with different thread counts. You can also repeat the design on a longer length of Aida band to trim a larger towel.

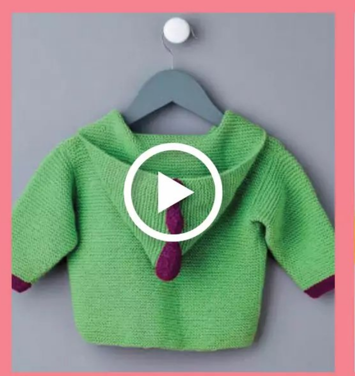




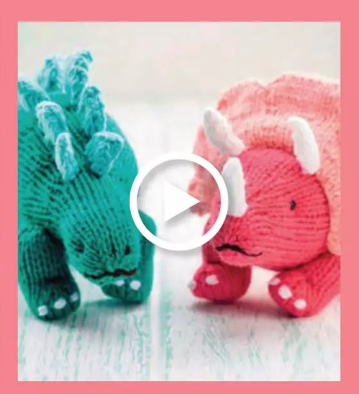
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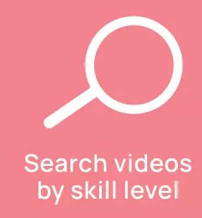
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Finley Fox

Use your DK stash to knit Sachiyo Ishii's adorable critter

Our cute little friend is the perfect companion for children and adults alike. When he's not chilling in the garden, he likes to sit on your craft shelf and admire all the creative goings-on. When working the tummy, use the intarsia method using two balls of orange yarn and twisting the yarns together to avoid any holes.



We used...

* DK yarn: (A) Orange, (B) White, 25g of each; oddments of Brown * 3.5mm knitting needles * Two black 5mm black beads or safety eyes * Safety toy stuffing * Tapestry needle

HEAD

Using 3.5mm needles and yarn A, cast on ten sts
Row 1 and every odd-numbered row: p to end
Row 2: (kfb) in each st to end. 20 sts
Row 4: (k1, kfb) to end. 30 sts
Row 6: (k2, kfb) to end. 40 sts
Rows 7-17: beg with a p row, work in st st
Row 18: k10, (k2tog) ten times, k to end. 30 sts
Row 19: p
Row 20: k8, (k2tog, k1) four times, k2tog, k to end. 25 sts
Change to yarn B
Rows 21-25: beg with a p row, work in st st
Row 26: k1, (k2tog, k1) to end. 17 sts
Row 27: p
Row 28: k2tog, (k1, k2tog) to end. 11 sts
Cut yarn leaving a long tail, thread through rem sts, pull tight and fasten off

BODY

Using 3.5mm needles and yarn A, cast on ten sts
Rows 1-4: rep Rows 1-4 of Head. 30 sts
Rows 5-11: beg with a p row, work in st st
Note: using intarsia method, work as folls, letter foll instruction indicates yarn shade
Row 12: k10 A, k10 B, k10 A
Keeping colours as set, cont as folls:
Row 13: p
Row 14: k2, (k2tog, k2) to end. 23 sts
Rows 15-21: rep Rows 5-11
Row 22: k2tog, (k1, k2tog) to end. 15 sts
Cut yarn leaving a long tail, thread through rem sts, pull tight and fasten off

BACK LEG

Make two
Using 3.5mm needles and yarn B, cast on nine sts
Row 1 (WS): p
Row 2: (kfb) in each st to end. 18 sts
Rows 3-7: beg with a p row, work in st st
Row 8: k6, (k2tog) three times, k6. 15 sts
Row 9: p6, p3tog, p6. 13 sts
Rows 10-11: beg with a k row, work in st st
Change to yarn A
Rows 12-16: beg with a k row, work in st st
Row 17: p1, (p2tog, p1) to end. Nine sts
Cut yarn leaving a long tail, thread through rem sts, pull tight and fasten off

FRONT LEG

Make two
Using 3.5mm needles and yarn B, cast on six sts
Row 1 (WS): p
Row 2: (kfb) in each st to end. 12 sts
Rows 3-8: beg with a p row, work in st st
Change to yarn A
Rows 9-14: beg with a p row, work in st st
Row 15: (p2tog) to end. Six sts
Cut yarn leaving a long tail, thread through rem sts, pull tight and fasten off

OUTER EAR

Make two
Using 3.5mm needles and yarn A, cast on ten sts
Row 1 (WS): p
Row 2: skpo, k to last two sts, k2tog. Eight sts
Rows 3-6: rep Rows 1-2 twice. Four sts
Row 7: (p2tog) twice. Two sts
Row 8: k2tog. One st
Fasten off

STUFFING TIPS

To get your toy looking its best, tease out the stuffing before filling to give a smooth finish and avoid any clumps.
Use a pencil to push the stuffing down to hard to reach areas.
Try not to overstuff as this will stretch your stitches.

INNER EAR

Make two

Using 3.5mm needles and yarn B, cast on eight sts
Rows 1-4: rep Rows 1-2 of Outer Ear twice. Four sts
Rows 5-6: rep Rows 7-8 of Outer Ear. One st
Fasten off

TAIL

Using 3.5mm needles and yarn A, cast on 12 sts
Rows 1-5: beg with a p row, work in st st
Change to yarn B
Rows 6-13: beg with a k row, work in st st
Row 14: (k2tog) to end. Six sts
Row 15: p
Cut yarn leaving a long tail, thread through rem sts, pull tight and fasten off

TO MAKE UP

Sew seams of Head, Body, Back Legs and Front Legs halfway using fastened-off yarn end. Using cast-on yarn end work gathering thread along cast-on edge and draw tightly. If using safety eyes, fix these to head. Stuff and sew seam closed. Sew Legs to Body so fox is sitting down. Sew Inner and Outer Ears together at sides and attach cast-on edge to Head. Sew on beads for eyes, if using. Using a length of brown DK, embroider nose using backstitches. Sew Head to Body. Seam and stuff Tail and attach to Body.



"If you don't have safety eyes or beads, make large French knots using two strands of dark brown DK"
SACHIYO ISHII, CB DESIGNER

Brands To Love

We have selected a range of new products from our most loved brands. These products are an absolute must-have.



Spring Colour Palette – Rose Garden

Create some bloomin' lovely resin artwork with **Resin8's** Spring Colour Palette - Rose Garden. Reminiscent of crisp morning walks, blossoming flowers and freshly cut grass, these gorgeous pigments add intense colour to your resin pieces. Use code CRAFTYSPRING for 10% off!
resin8.co.uk



DesignaKnit9

Create your own knitted garment using this wonderful software. DesignaKnit comes in a choice of these 4 product levels to suit the way you knit. This product is perfect for everyone!
softbyte.co.uk



Making Moulds

From Soaps to Bath Bombs and all kinds of cosmetics and toiletries, **The Soap Kitchen** has everything you need to make your very own! They are introducing 40 new moulds this month! Use code MOULDMONTH for 10% off! T&Cs apply, code expires 20/06/2021.
thesoapkitchen.co.uk

Talens Toned Paper



Talens Toned Paper in Cold colours are of high quality, made with 15% cotton and 20% recycled paper. It is suitable for use with pencils, soft pastels, gouache, inks, acrylics and charcoal. This pad includes the colours of Mystical Blue, Royal Blue, Cotton White and Industrial Grey. Available in A4, A3, 180 grams, 50 pages. **royaltalens.com**

FIMO Modelling Clay & Accessories



FIMO is undoubtedly one of the best known and most popular modelling clays. It is easy to shape and once hardened can be drilled, polished or varnished for a beautiful finish. The extensive FIMO range caters for both professional and amateur users, whilst the FIMO kids range has been specifically developed to meet the needs of children so that even little artists can effortlessly shape this clay! Learn more about **STAEDTLER's** range of FIMO products on their website. **staedtler.com**

Word & Pages

Tattered Lace brings you the new collection Words & Pages, a wonderful collection designed to help you present and preserve your most precious memories in beautiful ways.
crafting.co.uk





Spring Selection Bargain Pack

JJ Quilling Design stocks a wide range of quilling strips and accessories to get your creative juices flowing. We are re-introducing our popular Spring Selection Bargain Pack, containing blank cards, papers and a bundle of quilling strips.
jjquiling.co.uk

Grab a cuppa and read our latest blogposts!







From mindful makes to genius upcycling ideas, you'll be spoilt for choice with crafty inspiration!
crafts-beautiful.com/blog





Stitch Rope Bowls

Those handy-to-use, easy-to-lose items will finally have a gorgeous home you'll want to proudly display

Made from fabric-wrapped piping cord and zigzag stitched together with your sewing machine, these gorgeous bowls are perfect for all those little bits and bobs. Amanda Walker takes us through the process step-by-step, but once you've mastered it the possibilities truly are endless. Better yet, every single bowl will turn out completely unique, so grab your supplies and let's get making!



We used...

* Printed fabric * 6m of 6mm piping cord (this will be enough to make all three bowls) * Sewing machine and matching thread

1 Cut 2.5cm wide bias strips from printed fabric. Bind the end of the cord with the first bias strip, then wrap the bias binding around the cord. Secure the first part with 3cm of hand stitching, then leave the binding hanging past this point. Make the beginning of the coil and secure the first couple of rounds with hand stitches.

2 Set your machine to its widest zigzag width. Place the coil under the foot of the machine with the loose cord and binding sitting to the right of the foot and the coil to the left. Drop the foot onto the coil so that it is held in place while you tightly wrap another section of cord with binding, then pin the binding to prevent it from unravelling.

3 Start to zigzag so you connect the wrapped cord around onto itself. Ensure the zigzag stitch is connecting both sides of the cord. Use the middle finger of your right hand to push the unstitched cord tightly towards the coil. The beginning of the coil is quite fiddly and you will need to keep lifting the foot to position the coil. This will get easier as the coil gets larger, then you will not need to lift the foot and the process will be more continuous.

4 After doing four or five rounds around the centre of the coil, pick it up with your left hand from the bed of the machine and continue to stitch. As you stitch and wrap new sections of binding to the cord, you will see the bowl shape appearing. Continue to stitch and wrap around for another 10 times and you will then be working with the bowl in the cup of your hand.

5 When you reach that point, fold the end of the binding in and continue to stitch without the binding to create a plain border for the top of the bowl. Take the bowl out from the machine when the binding stops.

6 Bind the cord with thread, then cut the cord just in front of this as it will stop it from unravelling. Cut a scrap of binding and cover the end of the cord neatly, hand stitching it in position. Return your bowl to your machine to zigzag stitch the last section into place.



TRICKS OF THE TRADE

CRAFTS BEAUTIFUL DESIGNER AMANDA WALKER IS ON HAND TO HELP

* The shape of your bowl may differ from the ones pictured due to different models of sewing machines. The tension created from the cord as you wrap and stitch together will also affect the shape, but this means every bowl you make will be unique!

* Don't pre-cut the cord, work with more than you need so you can make the bowl to your chosen size.

* This project is a great stash buster and will make excellent use of leftover fabric scraps as your cutting doesn't need to be perfect.



VIBRANT FLORALS

We can't resist a beautiful Liberty fabric here at CB, and this Betsy Tana Lawn cotton one would make stunning summer-ready bowls. £25 per metre, **libertylondon.com**

CREATIVE CORD

Recreate the bowls using netted pre-shrunk piping cord for the best results and a smooth finish. £6.05 for 25m, **justpoles.com**

Walter WHALE

STITCH THIS BOLD AND BEAUTIFUL SEA CREATURE DESIGNED BY CHERYL OWEN

You're certain to have a whale of a time making this cheery companion! Just like David Attenborough, Walter is simply passionate about our oceans, so why not keep it eco-friendly with an upcycled pair of jeans for the main part of his body? Pair with a bright contrast fabric from your scrap stash for the belly and underside of the fins and tail. You'll be riding the waves in no time!



Craft Tip...

Be sure to use firm interfacing on the fins and tail for extra support



YOU'LL NEED...

Fabric: denim; printed cotton
Lightweight wadding
Fusible interfacing
Toy filling

Size 25cm x 35cm

Let's get started...

WHALE TOY

1 Download and print the templates provided at **makeandsewtoys.com**, cut out one pair of bodies, one pair of fins plus one tail on the fold from denim, and one pair of fins and one tail on the fold from interfacing. Cut one pair of tummies, one pair of fins and one tail from patterned cotton, plus another pair of tummies from wadding.

2 Use the template to draw eyes on the right side of the bodies with a pencil. Embroider in satin stitch using black embroidery thread and a crewel needle. With right sides facing, pin the bodies together and stitch the centre back seam from points A to B. Snip the curves and press the seam open.

3 Press interfacing to the wrong side of the denim fins. Pin each denim fin to a patterned one and stitch the outer edges, leaving the notched ones open. Snip the curves, turn right side out and press. Pin and tack the fins to the body with the denim sides facing, matching dots C and D.

4 Mark the broken lines on the right side of the tummies with a pencil. Pin and tack the tummies right side up on wadding. Use white sewing thread to stitch along the drawn lines to quilt the tummy. Place the centre front edges together, right sides facing and pin either side of the notches. Sew the centre front seam A to B, leaving a gap. Snip the curves and press the seam open.

ON TEST
brother Design n Craft

Let your creativity know no bounds with the amazing features of this handy printer





Beautifully Bespoke

Taking your wedding designs and accessories to the next level has never been easier with the Brother Design n Craft printer. Using cutting-edge technology, it guarantees a professional, full colour finish on every craft project. This means that not only is it simple to use, it also gives you complete creative freedom – whether you're making invitations, gifts or place cards, they'll all be unmistakably yours.



Helpful Hand

Using ZINK (zero ink) technology, you can create unique, colourful designs on glossy adhesive paper. You'll never need to make a handwritten label again with this handy printer and it's ideal for all your craft projects, from papercrafts to bullet journals. Better yet, you can use your favourite photos, images and text to make every label unique or customised to suit your lucky recipient.



Printing Made Easy

One of our favourite features of the Brother Design n Craft printer is that you can easily print photos and labels right from your phone or tablet's camera roll, or even directly from social media with the free Color Label Editor app. Choose from hundreds of built-in icons, frames, filters, fonts, emojis and backgrounds for that added special touch.



Multiple Choice

Create labels in a choice of five different widths, starting from 9mm and going all the way up to 50mm. With continuous rolls, the Brother Design n Craft printer allows you to create labels up to 42cm in length, simply just slot the roll into the back of the printer and you're ready to go!

Available from **amazon.co.uk**

ON TEST

Baking Essentials

Lockdown bakers unite! Let's whip up some delicious treats...



Homemade Happiness

Cupcakes and happiness go hand in hand like eggs go with butter, which is why this scrummy cupcake kit has gone straight to the top of our to-make list! Not only does it come with all the essentials and full instructions to make 10 cupcakes, there are also 10 gorgeous cupcake toppers designed by Stacie Swift filled with feel good messages. £14.99, **craftandcrumb.com**



Getting Personal

Made from eco-friendly materials, this set of three personalised baking utensils would make a gorgeous gift for any star baker in your life, or even as a treat for yourself! Including the all important wooden spoon, the handles are varying pastel shades meaning they would fit in with any kitchen décor. £20, **sophiavictoriajoy.com**



Pipe Dreams

Level up your decorating game with Lakeland's handy nozzle sets. Each focuses on a different pattern or design, like flowers or small borders, and comes with handy decorating tips so you can achieve beautiful bakes every time! Better yet, they're also made with stainless steel and are dishwasher safe so can be easily cleaned! From £3.99, **lakeland.co.uk**



Stand to Attention

Need somewhere to display all your yummy bakes? This elegant floral and gold flake cake stand is made with resin and real pressed flowers and would make a beautiful addition to any counter top or tea party. This stand is handmade to order and you can choose how many tiers you'd like, we'll never be putting this away! From £15.99, **sambacreations.etsy.com**



SILHOUETTE MINT – STAMPING MADE FRESH

The Silhouette Mint Custom Stamp Maker might be small but it packs a punch way above it's miniature size. The Mint's special "thermal printing" ability lets you create 3D reliefs of custom designs on Mint™ stamp sheets which can be created by yourself or via designs from the Silhouette Design Store. The Mint™ is supplied with Mint Studio software to allow you to fully utilise your Mint Custom Stamp Maker. Once you have designed your stamp and printed it our simply apply Mint™ inks to your stamp and you are ready to roll. You can stamp up to 50 times before reapplying your Mint ink to your custom stamp.



graphtecgb.shop/product/silhouette-mint-stamping-made-fresh

www.graphtecgb.shop Facebook: @OfficialSilhouetteUK Instagram:silhouette_uk

TAKE 5...

SIT DOWN WITH A CUPPA AND ENJOY OUR PUZZLES!

WIN a stamp and ink bundle!



Find our poodle somewhere in the magazine and email **jessica.elkin@aceville.co.uk** to be in with a chance of winning!

Fit the numbers 1 to 9 into the grid so that no number occurs more than once in any row, column or marked 3 x 3 box.

	8			7			5	6
						9		8
		6		9		1		
6				5		3		
	5			6				4
9	3					5		
3		1		4				
			2					9
		2	8		7			

ACROSS
1 Be dazed or concussed (3,5)
5 Insects that live in a formicary (4)
9 Mobile holiday home (6,3)
10 Rocky hillock (3)
11 Verse composition (4)
13 Emitting radiance (7)
16 Comply with orders (4)
18 Anxiety, disquiet (6)
19 Believe, suppose (6)
21 Highest point of an arch (4)
23 Eye cosmetic (7)
25 Abrupt (4)
27 Constituent of genetic material (inits) (3)
28 Period on or near the June solstice (9)
30 Stag or doe (4)
31 Indecorous (8)

DOWN
1 Hessian bag for coal (4)
2 Dutch ___ disease, tree ailment (3)
3 Drinks flask (7)
4 Pillage (6)
6 Obsessive fault-finder (3-6)
7 Cheap cut of meat (5-3)
8 Nullify (4)
12 Make too much of (9)
14 Harp-like instrument (4)
15 Old-fashioned (8)
17 Grizzly animal (4)
20 Leave out, omit (7)
22 Acquit (6)
24 Highest point of achievement (4)
26 Photograph showing the internal organs of the body (1-3)
29 Keep ___, remain silent (3)

1		2		3		4		■	5	6		7
	■		■		■		■	8	■		■	
9									■	10		
	■	■	■		■		■		■		■	
■	11	12			■	13	14					
15	■		■	16	17			■	■		■	
18						■	19	20				
	■		■	■	21	22			■		■	
23				24			■	25				■
	■		■		■		■		■	■	■	26
27			■	28						29		
	■		■		■		■		■		■	
30				■	31							



ACROSS: 1 See stars, **5** Ants, **9** Camper van, **10** Tor, **11** Poem, **13** Glowing, **16** Obey, **18** Unease, **19** Reckon, **21** Apex, **23** Mascara, **25** Cut, **27** DNA, **28** Midsummer, **30** Deer, **31** Unseemly.

DOWN: 1 Sack, **2** Elm, **3** Thermos, **4** Ravage, **6** Nit-picker, **7** Scrag-end, **8** Undo, **12** Overstate, **14** Lyre, **15** Outmoded, **17** Bear, **20** Exclude, **22** Pardon, **24** Acme, **26** X-ray, **29** Mum.

What's New Online at crafts-beautiful.com

Need an extra dose of inspiration? We've got you covered

FANCY GIVING SOMETHING NEW A TRY?

Well, we've got washi tape cards that will make excellent use of your stash, a strawberry tea set to stitch and even more Father's Day card inspiration that any dad would love, all ready to download now!



Get to grips with one of the oldest and most cherished forms of papercrafting – origami! We have a free video craft-along and download bundle, worth £25, to help you master this technique!





SEWING MASTER

Keep your furry friend happy with this great stash busting project! It's thought that 10 minutes of sniffing is as stimulating as half an hour's walk, so we know your pet will absolutely love it. This snuffle mat is big enough to hide lots of treats in but small enough to pop in the washing machine – win-win! **youtube.com/TheCraftsChannel**

PIN OF THE MONTH

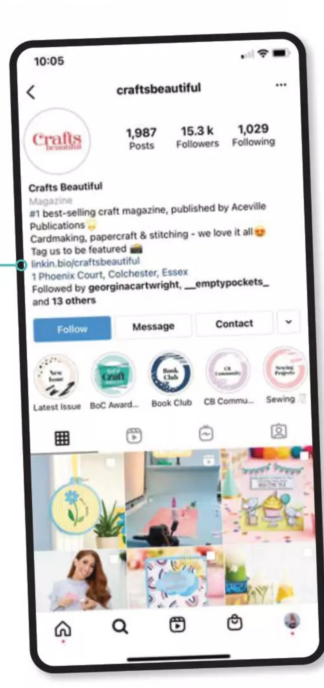
Looking for some more painting inspiration? This stunning watercolour vase of hydrangea flowers tutorial from The Frugal Crafter's blog has a real-time video so you can follow along, meaning this is completely beginner friendly! Take an afternoon, make yourself a cuppa, get out your paints and relax with this gorgeous project. Find it on our Pin of the Month board at **pinterest.com/craftsbeautiful**



Download your free In The Meadow papers and 30 bonus digi stamps, and use with this issue's Stephanie Weightman It's a Gift kit!

FOLLOW US!

Over on our Instagram account, we've got 15.3k craft lovers enjoying our exclusive giveaways, downloads and more! Join the fun and find us **@craftsbeautiful**



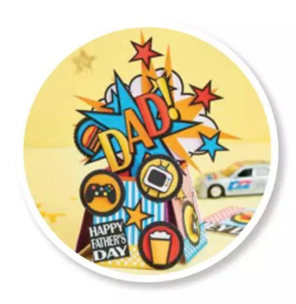
JUNE

TEMPLATE TASTERS

Copy, resize or trace these patterns to make the projects that appear in the magazine. You can also visit

crafts-beautiful.com

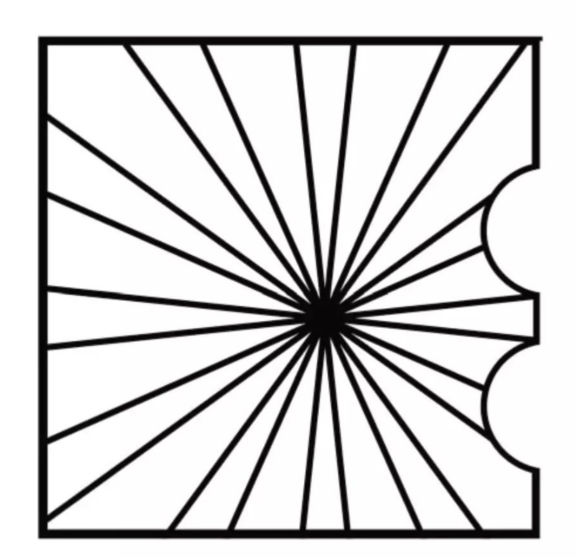
and download them for free!



Pop Art Father's Day Cards

Create punchy, colourful greetings for your favourite guy!

Helen Fitzjohn
Page 40 shown at 50%



Click & Craft

1 To download actual-size templates for this issue's makes, visit **crafts-beautiful.com**, then click on the tab to view our archive of craft templates.

2 Select the June issue's templates and click 'Download Template' on the new page. The pattern folder will automatically transfer onto your computer. Follow the instructions to print all or selected templates.

3 If you haven't already registered, you'll need to create a log-in for our website to allow you exclusive access to all of our free downloads and the masses of craft templates we have up for grabs.

DAD!

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

HEY DAD!



Pop Art Father's Day Cards

Create punchy, colourful greetings for your favourite guy!

Helen Fitzjohn

Page 40 shown at 75%



Hand Painted Bottles

Transform your glass recycling into must-have home décor

Jill Alblas
Page 52 shown at 100%

PINK BOTTLE AND TAG



PALE BLUE BOTTLE AND BAG



DARK BLUE BOTTLE



DARK BLUE TAG



Tea Party Set

Pretty up your garden table with these colourful appliqué accessories

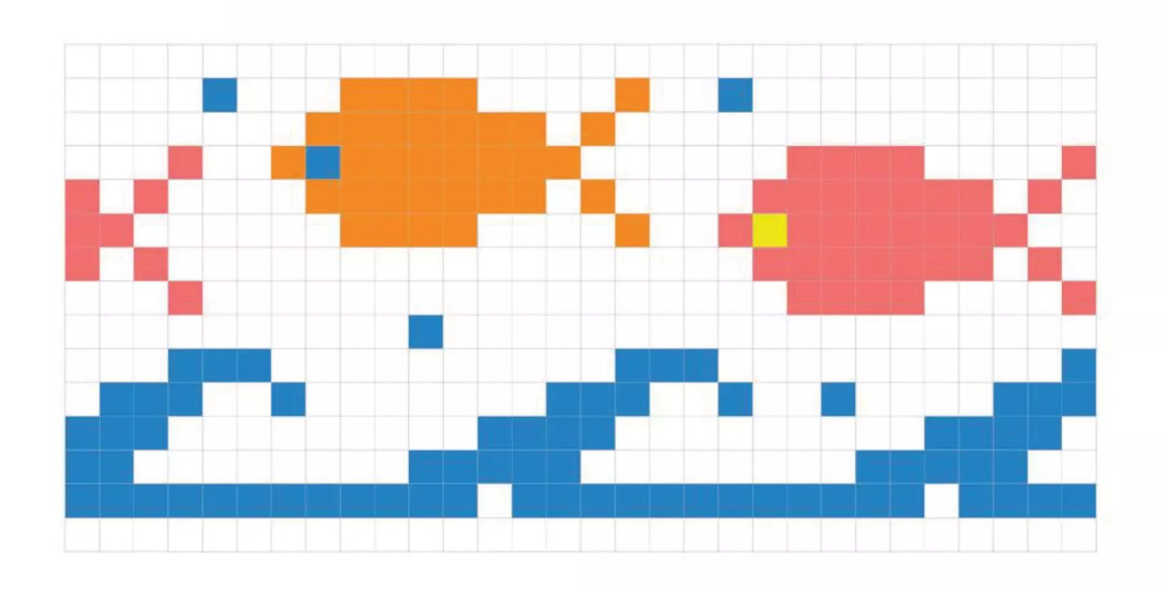
Sophia Palmer
Page 71 shown at 75%



Marine Towel Set

Pep up an everyday essential using cross-stitch

Susie Johns
Page 76



NEXT TIME IN...

Crafts beautiful

July 2021

INCLUDES 27 PIECES!

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PROJECTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE // *JUST PAY POSTAGE

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June 2021

Editor
Jessica Elkin (01206) 505484
jessica.elkin@aceville.co.uk
Deputy Editor
Melissa Hyland
melissa@aceville.co.uk
Content Writer
Sorcha Hornett
sorcha@aceville.co.uk
Head of Editorial: Crafts
Lynn Martin
Managing Director
Helen Tudor
Advertising Director
Owen Cook (01206) 505939
owen.cook@aceville.co.uk
Deputy Head of Crafts
Rebecca Reynolds (01206) 508611
rebecca.reynolds@aceville.co.uk
Advertising Manager
Danielle Harris (01206) 505954
danielle.harris@aceville.co.uk
Art Director
Sarah Mayes
Designers
Clare Brasier
Hannah Kemp
Louise Warner
Photography
cliqq.co.uk
All other images from Shutterstock and Aceville Publications Ltd
Ad Production
Adrian Pratt
Marketing Manager
Andrea Turner
andrea.turner@aceville.co.uk
Accounts
Anne-Marie Hartley (01206) 505902
Subscription Enquiries
0800 904 7000
Senior Subscriptions Executive
Zoe Charge
Customer Services
0800 904 7000
aceville@dctmedia.co.uk
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Giveaways GALORE!

To enter our giveaways, just choose the items you would like to win by ticking the corresponding boxes. Post your entry to arrive no later than 8th July 2021. Mark your envelope: **Sharon Kilbride, Crafts Beautiful May & June Giveaways, 1 Phoenix Court, Hawkins Road, Colchester, Essex, CO2 8JY**

☐ Craft Kits ☐ Stationery Set ☐ Gemini Pro
☐ Louvre Prints ☐ Luxury Papers

What is your favourite craft technique?

☐ Papercraft ☐ Sewing ☐ Calligraphy ☐ Watercolour

Title* Forename*

Surname*

Address*

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Email

* Entries will NOT be valid unless ALL asterisked information is provided.

How much do you spend on crafting per month?

☐ £20 and under
☐ £21 - £50
☐ £50 - £100+

Feel free to photocopy this form if you don't want to damage the magazine.

Only one entry per person is accepted.

Visit **crafts-beautiful.com** to enter our giveaways online!

TERMS AND CONDITIONS This competition is open to all UK residents aged 18 or over, excluding employees or agents of the associated companies and their families. One entry per person (duplicates will be void). The prizes detailed in each competition cannot be exchanged for goods, or towards the purchase of goods at any retail outlet and are subject to availability. Prizes cannot be exchanged for cash, or replaced if lost or damaged. Prizes are subject to availability and we reserve the right to withdraw any prize at any time. Automated entries are disqualified. Illegible entries and those that do not abide by these terms and conditions will be disqualified. The decision of the judge is final and no correspondence will be entered into. No responsibility held for entries lost, delayed or damaged in the post, proof of posting is not proof of delivery. All entries become the property of Aceville Publications Ltd & sister companies and you agree to be contacted by completing this form. Winners will be notified within 28 days of the closing date, a list of winners will be available in writing on request from Marketing Department, 21/23 Phoenix Court, Hawkins Road, Colchester, Essex, CO2 8JY.

CLOSING DATE 8th July 2021

Entrants can also enter by completing the entry form on crafts-beautiful.com. Entries received after the closing date of the promotion will not be considered. The Promoter will use entrants' personal details in accordance with the Aceville Privacy Policy. This is a limited offer and may be withdrawn at any time and subject to change.

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Put your completed form in an envelope and send it to: **Find a Crafty Friend, Crafts Beautiful, 1 Phoenix Court, Hawkins Road, Colchester, Essex, CO2 8JY** or submit details via email: **cbfriends@aceville.co.uk**

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CRAFT KITS





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With the cold dark winter evenings approaching we have a variety of kit for all ages to keep you occupied. Alternatively browse our many departments and start a project of your own choice.



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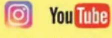
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EGG CRAFT

Linda Martin Egg Designs



We have just added some new egg art videos to our online download store. Ranging in price from £5 to £15, we cater for all levels of ability.
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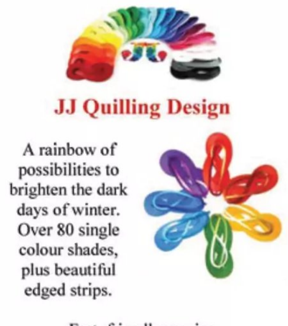




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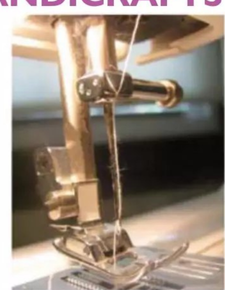
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Eloisa Henderson-Figueroa



Just like us, a love of colour runs through Eloisa's veins, so we caught up with the show-stopping artist to talk all things paint

PAINTING SPECIAL

Colour has followed me throughout my life. It started, like most, in my childhood, into my university work and now in my own art. I studied 3D Materials Practice at university, where I made toys and games for children with emotional and behavioural difficulties, which were based around colour and shapes – you'll be able to spot this inspiration in my current designs. I've also worked in the TV and film industry which helped me to develop my passion for mural painting. But, over the years, I've really fine tuned my craft and realised what my own style is: creating exciting things that make people happy!

Realising people connected with my work is what pushed me to getting out into the world and painting people's homes and spaces with colourful murals. I decided to launch Colour Club, fun art classes designed to reignite your inner child. Since starting these classes, I've taught hundreds of people both virtually and in person – watching their confidence grow is the best bit!

Paint is one of those things that people either love or are really scared of. I used to be fearful of it when I was at university because I didn't consider myself a painter, I was a maker. It's only since working in the creative industry that I've developed my own style and really fallen in love with it, especially when seeing how a few paint colours can change a room or bring a canvas to life.

I currently have a lot of projects on the go, with murals for restaurants, companies and people's homes, creating uniforms for a local cocktail company, and even designing tattoos... It's amazing to have such a variety of work, and I really love it all, but if I had to choose my all-time favourite project, it would have to be a mural I painted in London for an immersive theatre company during lockdown. They let me come and completely freestyle a 10m piece of art, it was the biggest one I had ever done – I loved how it turned out and it got a really great response.

> "Paint is one of those things that people either love or are really scared of"

Being able to make a living from doing what I love has been such a proud moment for me. I decided to not go back to the TV and film industry and instead shifted the focus onto my own work – so far it's really paying off! I have lots of exciting plans on my crafty radar, one of them being a UK mural painting tour. I'm going wherever a wall needs to be painted and taking it as an opportunity to see the sights of this wonderful place!



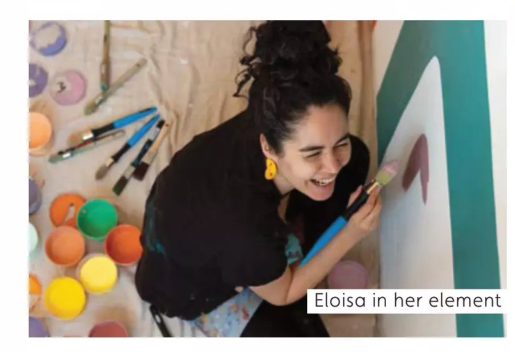
A Colour Club class, AKA heaven!



Eloisa's favourite project is this gorgeous 10m mural for a theatre company



Transforming spaces with colour



Eloisa in her element

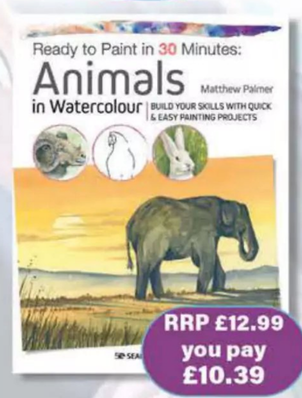
Eloisa's advice for budding artists

- Only do things that make you happy.
- Get as much experience as you can.
- Try not to compare yourself to other people. It's your own journey, not theirs.



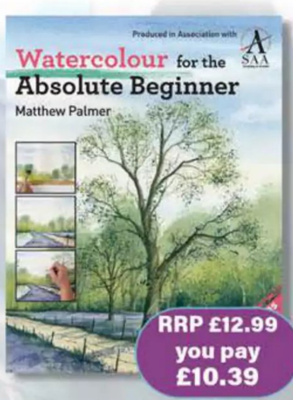


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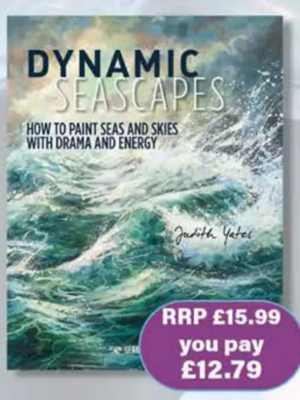
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